



Noise ordinance causes confusion and controversy

By PETER SICHER
News & Features Editor

Violations of the Nuisance ordinance have resulted in arrest, confusion and controversy for Hopkins students living in Charles Village.

Enacted in 2007, the ordinance states that if the police write two reports about a residence's excessive noise within a six month period, the city can take action against its tenants or owners.

Confusion still surrounds the ordinance, with many unsure how many reports have been written, and others unaware of what actions the city police can be taken after violations.

The bulk of the problems are on University Parkway . . . where we have the conflict between students and long-term residents.

— Doug Gibson

While Greek Life Coordinator Rob Turning wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter* that he was not aware of any Hopkins students receiving noise warnings, the Baltimore Police Department said that some Hopkins students had police reports written about their excessive noise.

"We've had some. I wouldn't say it's excessive. It has been an issue earlier in the school year. It has kind of tailed off a little bit. We do have some [houses] that are [still] an issue," said Jonathan Walters, a community relations officer with the Northern District of the Baltimore Police Department.

The department would not provide *The News-Letter* with the exact number of reports filed.

"The bulk of the problems are on the University Parkway corridor, where we have the conflict between students and long-term residents," Northern District Community Relations Officer Doug Gibson said.

The police are not required inform residents if they have a noise related

SEE NOISE, PAGE A6

Chinese dragons entertain students at Culture Show



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

The Chinese Lion-Dancing group showcases its talents to the Hopkins community as part of the annual Culture Show held in Shriver Hall.

Seizure during exam prompts debate on stress culture

By SARAH TAN
News & Features Editor

After a student had a seizure during Professor Lawrence Principe's Organic Chemistry exam, other classmates had their tests collected while student health response units arrived on the scene.

The Hopkins Emergency Response Unit (HERU) answered head TA Tony Evans's phone call for help for sophomore Shayan Khalafi after he seized with five minutes remaining in the test period. The TAs reportedly collected exams immediately after Khalafi began seizing, because five minutes had elapsed since they had called the time warning.

Some students of the class were disappointed at the way that the test situation was handled, although they admitted that they did understand the reasons for doing so.

"It would have been nice for the TAs to give five extra minutes, but I can understand their hesitation because some people didn't even react that much to the seizure," sophomore Julia Angley said.

Angley, who is also a member of HERU, reportedly handed in her test when she saw Khalafi seizing, and went to help. She said that because the exam was almost over anyways, she had already finished and had just been checking over her answers.

"I think at that level you have to be concerned about yourself, and if they knew there was nothing they could be doing, and people were helping him, and you were concerned about your grades, I understand why some kids wouldn't have helped. Personally though, that's not something that I could do," Angley said.

Following the Nov. 5 incident, a number of rumors that students in the class remained apathetic during Khalafi's seizure surfaced on JHU Confessions, Hopkins' gossip Web site.

"I could see it happening here — it's not entirely implausible. People at Hopkins get really tunnel-minded at times because the environment is so stressful," junior Aaron Jones said of the rumor.

Sophomore David Coren, a physics major, agreed with Jones, saying that the plausibility of the rumor was "not entirely out of the realm of possibility". However, he also thought that a lot of people mis-judged the culture at Hopkins.

"If Hopkins was as cut-throat an institution as many people perceive it to be, I'd say that yes, I could see this happening, but I don't think

SEE SEIZURE, PAGE A5

MSE Symposium hosts Lord of the Rings actor Sean Astin

By MARIE CUSHING and KIMBER WIEGAND
Staff Writer

Sean Astin brought a light-hearted touch to his speech on Tuesday, where he discussed leadership, the media and his life as an actor.

The *Lord of the Rings* and *Rudy* star spoke to around 800 attendees at the final speech of this year's MSE Symposium.

The evening started with a reel of clips highlighting Astin's dif-

ferent film roles. His response to these clips started off the humorous, self-deprecating tone that would characterize his speech.

"Well, after watching that promo reel I'm sure you're on the edge of your seat to partake of the knowledge and wisdom that Doug Whitmore, the steroid using bodybuilder may have to offer," Astin said sarcastically, referencing his role in the Adam Sandler film *50 First Dates*.

It has been a good week for the Astin family at Hopkins.

This weekend Hopkins Professor John Astin (Sean's father), directed a student-written play that starred Mackenzie Astin, Sean's younger brother.

"The Barrymores are fine, but the Astins are taking the Barn by storm," Sean Astin joked.

This reference to the Merrick Barn was just one of the many nods Astin gave his connection to the University. Because of his father, Astin made it clear that he knows more about the Hopkins campus than the average speaker, and he used references to the book store, j-cards and lacrosse games as proof.

Astin said that he relishes the chance to speak to students "because of the enthusiasm and optimism that characterizes these communities, and because, to put it plainly, I have something to say . . . I am naturally inclined to want to be heard, a condition common among most actors."

The actor's jokes were enjoyed by the audience, and also by Astin himself — on occasion he would have to pause for a brief chuckle at his own remarks. But Astin talked seriously about what it means for an actor to speak out on an issue.

"Though I relish my First Amendment freedom to speak and I leap at the chance to exercise it . . . often actors views



MARY DZWONCHYK/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sean Astin spoke to a group of enthusiastic listeners during the MSE Symposium.

are taken with a grain of salt — sometimes too large a grain of salt," he said.

Astin added, "I worked very hard throughout my life not to have my voice marginalized. I know this is true for students, and really for everyone."

During the lengthy press en-

gagement during promotion of *The Lord of the Rings*, Astin came face-to-face with how the media can shape and influence the public's perception of someone.

"It's easy to get one dimensionality locked into the public's mind, and it can be challenging

SEE ASTIN, PAGE A6



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Sophomore Mark Dirzulaitis presented a study of prices at Charles St. Market.

SGA considers high prices at Charles Street Market

By LAURA MUTH
News & Features Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) recently ran a pricing study on items at Charles Street Market (Char Mar) and found that certain items were considerably more expensive than the same items at both chain supermarkets like Safeway and Superfresh and local competitors like Eddie's and University Market.

The study was led by sophomore senator Mark Dirzulaitis, a member of the SGA's Campus Affairs Committee. Dirzulaitis said that for the survey, SGA members took a basket of 20 items and compared their Char Mar prices to their prices at other stores.

"Most of them were fine, but there were a few items that were just absurdly marked up," Dirzulaitis said.

Some of the highest marked up items were Stonyfield Yogurt, Kraft Cracker Barrel Cheese, Axe Body Wash, Lucky Charms cereal, Colgate Total White toothpaste, paper towels and a pint of Ben and Jerry's ice cream.

After seeing the results of the survey, Dirzulaitis met with the manager of Char Mar to discuss some of the items. He specifically mentioned a cheese that was between \$4.99 and \$5.99 at other stores, but \$8.09 at Char Mar. He was told that Char Mar employs a "competitive pricing

SEE SGA, PAGE A3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



SCIENCE

• Naruma jellyfish can reach diameters of six feet and weigh up to 450 pounds. See Briefs in Marine Bio, Page B9.

ARTS

• Matisyahu performs this Saturday, 7p.m. at Sonar. Exclusive interview with the reggae artist can be found on Page B3.



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business@jhnewsletter.com

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NEWS & FEATURES

Faces Around Campus: Tyler Smith, political activist and campaigner

Junior history major Smith has worked on numerous campaigns with many different politicians in his home state of Washington

By **PETER SICHER**
News & Features Editor

Hopkins junior Tyler Smith has been in politics since the age of five: He spent his formative toddler years sealing and stamping envelopes for the current mayor of Seattle Greg Nichols.

"Back then, I was putting labels on envelopes and collecting paper from the printer," Smith said.

This past summer, in keeping with his political inclinations, Smith spent the summer working as an intern for Constantine (D—Wash.).

When he was working on the campaign, Constantine was a county council member in King County (close to Seattle) and was running for the office of county executive.

Smith was involved both in Constantine's official office and in his campaign.

"My job within the office included dealing with constituent case work but also delving into areas of policy research, particularly the budget, which was a major issue in this year's campaign," Smith said.

"More interestingly probably, my work on the campaign involved organizing volunteers and the logistics of a grassroots field campaign."

"We had to put together a pretty large voter contact operation, getting in touch with undecided voters, reaching supporters, identifying them, making sure they vote," he said.

It involved several phone banks spread throughout the county. We had to recruit volunteers each night, make sure they were there."

Since his early start in politics at age five, Smith has become more seriously involved in politics.

When he was 14 years old, he spent the summer in South Dakota working for the campaign of then Democratic Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D—S.D.).

"The thing about Tom, and we called him Tom, is despite at the time being the Democratic Majority Leader, is that he goes by his first name with the people of South Dakota, he's incredibly down to earth if you meet him and he's extremely helpful and always looking out for his staff and treating them with respect," he said.

"I think a good way to measure politicians is by the way they treat their staff. . . I met Daschle briefly and I've spoken to him a few other times."

"I've known members of his family, other people who have worked on his staff for a long time. They have the highest regard for him," he said.

Smith also worked for Congresswoman Patty Murray (D—Wash.)'s reelection campaign in 2004. Murray is now the fourth-

ranking member of the Democratic Caucus in the House of Representatives.

Constantine is also a longtime friend of Smith's family.

"I've known Dow for all my life. He's actually known me longer than I've known him since I was an infant at the time. He is a family friend," he said.

"He's been in elected office since I was six years old. I've seen his career advance at the same time I've grown up. I deeply respect his commitment to social justice and the environment."

He said that he thinks his experience

with Dow did help get the internship with the campaign.

"I worked with Dow on a number of issues through the party. He knew me and I knew him," Smith said.

"I still submitted a formal application, I still met with his staff. They

probably had to be brought on board."

"I think that my experience with Dow especially helped," he said.

"I don't mean to say getting the internship was easy because of that. I don't think my relationship with Dow was that close but he was aware of my work and I was aware of his, so it worked out."

The biggest issue in the campaign, in which Constantine ran against Susan Hutchinson, a Republican, was how King County would adapt to the recession.

"The biggest issue is probably something that no one here would be concerned about and that is the state of the county budget, balancing the county budget during an economic downturn," Smith said.

"But there are broader issues at stake too and that is how do we deal with an economic downturn, what are the trade-offs we need to make to deal with that. That's something we're dealing with at all levels of government throughout the country. How do we preserve human services or do we preserve human services in an economic downturn?" he asked.

Smith believes that many students at Hopkins are uninterested in politics, or apathetic.

"I think the political life of a university is shaped by the interests of the people involved," Smith said.

"If you have a group of students whose primary interest is entering graduate school or entering a particular career, here typically in medicine or some



ANGELI BUENO/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Smith, a history major, has been involved in campaigning for politicians since a very young age.

type of research or engineering."

"You have a group of students who are probably less

concerned with things that distract from that. I think Hopkins is a very intense academic envi-

ronment, you have to work hard, you have to compete. That typically removes the energy and time available for politics," he said.

Smith is a history major. He believes that history provides a vital tool for understanding modern politics.

"History gives meaning to politics. History shapes politics. You can't understand politics without understanding the history of what you're doing. You can't understand how you got to the situation you are in today without understanding history," he said.

"History undergirds all the social sciences. Historical methods are key political sciences, to sociology, to many parts of economics, to anthropology and without those you can't

possibly understand the world you're in today."

"The cliché is that those who forget history are bound to re-live it," he said.

Despite his interest and activities in politics, Smith does not intend to make it his career.

"I don't think I'd make a career out of [politics] but I'd continue to be involved. I'm going to be involved in the midterm elections coming up next year," he said.

"I absolutely would not run for public office. I think there are more effective ways to bring about political change but I have the utmost respect for people who do."

Smith advises students interested in working for campaigns to be take things slow.

"I think the best thing is to just be patient. You're not going to change the world overnight. . . Keep on doing what you need to do for whatever campaign you're working on at that time," he said.

"Just keep fighting. If you win you win and that's great. If you lose, you just move on to the next campaign."

Students For Choice host game event to advocate safe sex

The event revealed the results of a sex survey the group distributed earlier in the year

By **FLORENCE LAU**
Staff Writer

This past weekend, Students For Choice, a Hopkins organization dedicated to spreading information about safe sex and making the "right" decisions when it comes to students' sex lives, hosted "Family Planning Feud," an event hosted at and funded by Nolan's.

Senior and president of Students For Choice Kate Mercogliano said that the event had been in the works since mid-September.

She collaborated with eight other people to plan for it.

"We wanted to educate people about what safe sex is and how we can practice it," Mercogliano said when asked why Students For Choice had chosen to host such an event.

In order to prepare for this event, a survey was put out to the Hopkins student body, asking them various questions pertaining to birth control, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and sex practices.

"How old were you when you both had sex?" and "Where have you gotten tested for STIs?" are two of the questions which showed up on the survey.

"The purpose of the survey was to learn about what students do and what they don't do, safe or otherwise, in their sex lives," Mercogliano said.

Students For Choice then took the answers to these questions and created the main part of this event, the Family Planning Feud game show, around

them, hoping that it could help educate students further based off the answers received in the survey.

"A lot of the survey answers were like, 'I don't know where to go,' 'Because I'm embarrassed,' 'Because I think I'm safe because I know my sex practice,' Mercogliano said.

"We're here to tell people why they should get tested [and] the means to have safe sex . . . in a more fun way, rather than just lecturing people about STDs."

Family Planning Feud was based off the game show *Family Feud*: A question from the survey was posed to contestants who were then split into two teams, Team Condom vs. Team Birth Control Pill.

The teams then had to guess the top five answers which had been received for that question.

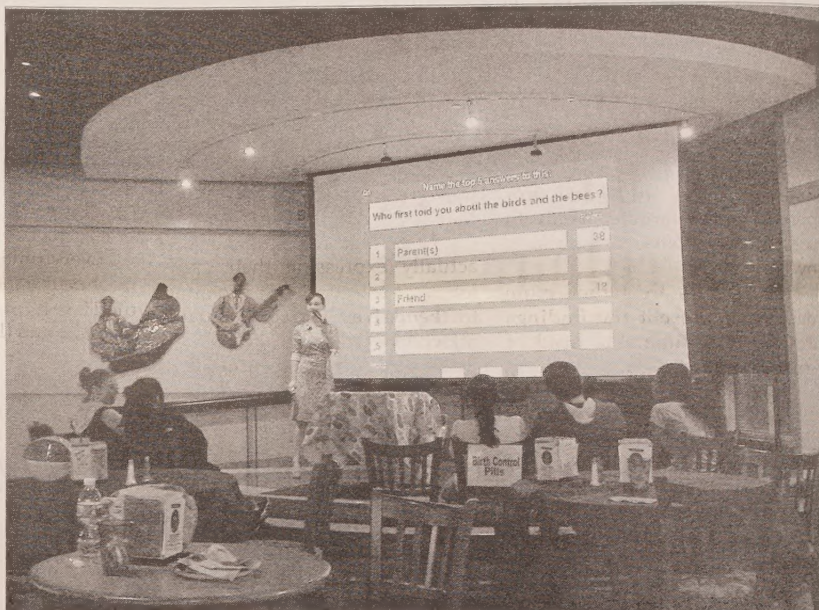
The more popular the answer, the more points that team received. The team with the highest points won various prizes, including pins or sex toys.

Despite the fact that the night started off with some technical difficulties, attendees appeared to have enjoyed themselves while also learning about how to practice safe sex.

Students of all classes, freshmen to seniors, were represented, and even some Hopkins alumni showed up to play.

After her team's victory in the first round of Family Planning Feud, alumna Liberty Tillemann-Dick told *The News-Letter*, "I thought it was very interesting to learn about the different preferences and lifestyle choices that Hopkins students are making, and it was interesting to hear the answer of the other team."

"It's good to have that knowledge out there, and [Students For Choice] work hard to get that knowledge out there, but people still miss it. It's a valuable tool to get the word out, and it was



COURTESY OF KATHRYN MERCOGLIANO

Students split into teams to play the Family Planning Feud game held in Nolan's. Sex toys were given as prizes to the team that could guess the most popular responses on the JHU sex survey.

fun."

Sophomore Faradia Kernizan agreed.

"You learn a lot about your fellow students, and they gave us a bit of actual information about birth control and planning . . . it was informative and fun," Kernizan said.

Although Family Planning Feud was the main part of the event, Students For Choice also sold pro-choice t-shirts and pins for \$6 and 25 cents, respectively, and gave out condoms, pamphlets, and other reading material regarding safe sex and information about STIs.

There was also a raffle and a movie about Crisis Pregnancy Centers was screened.

"[The movie is about] how [crisis centers] lie to people about their contraceptives and abortion

options," Mercogliano said.

"There is a bill before the city council right now to get the centers to reveal where to get abortions and contraceptives and . . . to make them more honest."

Overall, the night was a success according to Students For Choice. Students enjoyed the free pizza and the activities, and the group was able to get the word out on how to practice safe sex.

"I actually enjoyed myself . . . I went in expecting that they were going to try and convert me to be pro-choice, but I learned a lot and had fun while doing it," said one freshman, who preferred to remain anonymous.

More information about Students For Choice can be found at <http://www.jhu.edu/choice/>.



FILE PHOTO The group advocates on campus for safe sex practices through other activities aside from the Family Planning Feud as well, such as Sex on the Beach, which is held in the spring.

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NEWS & FEATURES



FILE PHOTO
Many items at Charles Street Market are over-priced as compared to local prices.

SGA conducts pricing survey at local groceries

SGA, FROM A1
mechanism” to compete with other local stores.

“On Monday when I went back the price had been lowered to \$5.99,” Dirzulaitis said.

He said he was surprised and pleased to see that effect.

“They are being very cooperative, and I think once we present all our findings to them they will be open to change,” he said.

He strongly emphasized that he thinks Aramark will be open to changing its prices after the study is presented to it.

At the SGA meeting on Tuesday, Dirzulaitis presented the findings of his study and proposed a more targeted study to see if other items are similarly overpriced.

His goal is to gather more data, then present the findings to Dave Furhman, the head of Hopkins dining.

“Dave can communicate with the regional director of Aramark and maybe bring about change,” he said.

While he did not give a strict timeline for when the SGA representatives involved in the study would meet with Furhman, Dirzulaitis said it would probably be done by the time of the SGA’s last meeting of the semester, a week or two after Thanksgiving break.

The types of items Dirzulaitis found to be most overpriced were toiletries, cereals and what he describes as “premium items,” such as the Kraft Cracker Barrel Cheese.

The price mark-ups ranged from an average of 17.22 percent for the ice cream to 111.11 percent for the yogurt.

The average Ben and Jerry’s pint supermarket price was \$3.75, while at Char Mar it was \$4.39. For Stonyfield yogurt the average

price at supermarkets was \$0.99, while at Char Mar a yogurt cost \$2.09.

Student for the most part did not seem surprised that Char Mar prices were higher than other stores. However, they supported the SGA’s efforts to call more attention to the fact.

Junior Kevin Barnett felt that Char Mar takes advantage of the fact that it is one of the only places students can use dining dollars.

“They unfairly exploit the students by locking them into a meal plan and limiting their options,” he said.

He felt that the study had the potential to affect change at Char Mar.

“Now that the students are actually expressing their opinion . . . instead of just groaning to themselves, it might actually affect Aramark.”

However, because Char Mar is one of the only places near campus where students can spend dining dollars, sophomore Rohan Shah said he was not particularly concerned with

the difference in prices between Char Mar and other grocery stores.

“They are slightly more expensive, but I don’t really mind since I’ve already paid for the dining dollars... and I don’t

They unfairly exploit the students by locking them into a meal plan and limiting their options.

—KEVIN BARNETT,
JUNIOR AT HOPKINS

use all my dining dollars anyway,” he said.

Freshman Georgia Pierce, however, agreed with Barnett.

“The Char Mar prices are pretty expensive,” she said.

While she expressed the hope that this study would lead to a change in prices, she did not think it was very likely.

“I think they know they’re convenient for students and they’re going to bank on that,” she said.

By SARAH TAN &
WILL SHEPHERDSON
Staff Writers

Last Thursday, a representative of the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Aung Kyaw Ze Ya, also known as Stanley in America, a refugee from Burma who has since been resettled in Baltimore, spoke to Hopkins students in Remsen Hall. The event, called “From Burma To Baltimore,” was co-hosted by the Refugee Action Project and Amnesty International.

Ya spoke about his own multi-year journey from Burma that recently culminated in his resettlement in Baltimore earlier this year.

He now works as an interpreter for Hopkins Hospital and also serves as an advisor for Digital Democracy.

In the mid 1980s, Ya got involved in student activism, playing a part in the 1988 student leader uprising. He choose to pursue a career in Information Technologies and helped to found the All Burma Information Technology Students’ Union.

His involvement with the Union and the uprising led to his imprisonment in a forced labor camp for over a year, in which he went through some harrowing experiences.

“I still have some of the images of the other captives who were killed by land mines in my mind,” Ya said.

“I thought I was going to die, because there were only three of us left in the forced labor camp at that point [before being released].”

After he was released, he continued to organize for the Union.

Over the years, Ya was forced to flee the country numerous times to avoid arrest and certain harsh treatment.

Every time he returns to Burma, he continues to try, “to inform the IT sector and reorganize the students and [lead] them to stand up against the government.”

Ya lived near the Thai-Burma border until 2005 when he was forced to flee for good to Thailand.

From Thailand, he has continued his organizational efforts and trained other students to continue his work inside Burma.

The loosening of internet policies eased the dissemination of information for activists like Stanley, he said. Since Burma was connected to the internet in 2000, although access has been highly restricted, bloggers have successfully circumvented government censors.

In particular, during the 2007 Burmese anti-government protests, the All Burma Information Technology Students’ Union was successful in supporting the posting of pictures and videos from inside Burma, Ya said.

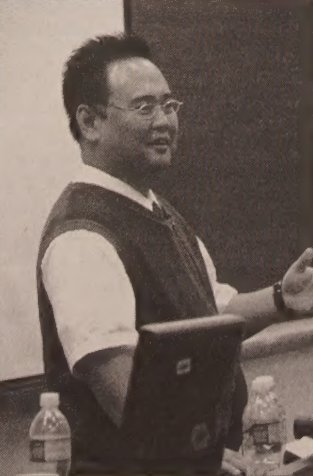
“Because they cut off the internet, we had to use satellite to transfer information from inside Burma, and that is where I realized how important IT was,” Ya said.

Ya continues to be involved with advocacy efforts in Burma through his union in addition to internal human rights organizations.

Student reaction to the presentations was positive. Many attendees were engaged by Ya story and desired to get involved themselves.

“I found the speech really inspiring,” sophomore Saznin Mehta said.

“I didn’t really have any interest before this, but I feel that now after hearing his speech I might want to try and volunteer for the organization.”



WILL SHEPHERDSON
/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ya discussed his experiences in Burma.

Other students appreciated the first person perspective.

“It was interesting hearing [the refugee story] from the point of view of a refugee himself,” sophomore Linda Song said.

Students agreed that it was a though-provoking night for the members of the Hopkins community in attendance.

“It sparked my interest, that’s for sure,” Saznin said.

One of the chief organizers of the event and co-president of the Refugee Action Project, Ben Margolis said that he and the rest of the project were glad to host Ya to speak.

“In terms of bringing people to campus, although he doesn’t represent the population we tutor,

to discuss global refugee issues, we’re glad to have a more global perspective,” Margolis said.

Burma has been ruled by a military regime since a 1962 coup overthrew the established civilian government. In the subsequent years, thousands of students have been killed demonstrating in support of democracy and human rights.

The IRC has identified Burma as a priority for its aid efforts in Asia and the South Pacific. The IRC, a non-governmental US-based relief and aid organization, coordinates humanitarian efforts around the globe.

Under the current military regime, the Burmese minority has

been subjected to forced labor, widespread torture, arbitrary executions and systematic rape as well as the taking of sex slaves. The options for refugees are currently limited: they are either repatriated, given refugee status in a host country or resettled in a third country.

According to the IRC representative, fewer than 1 percent of refugees are successfully resettled.

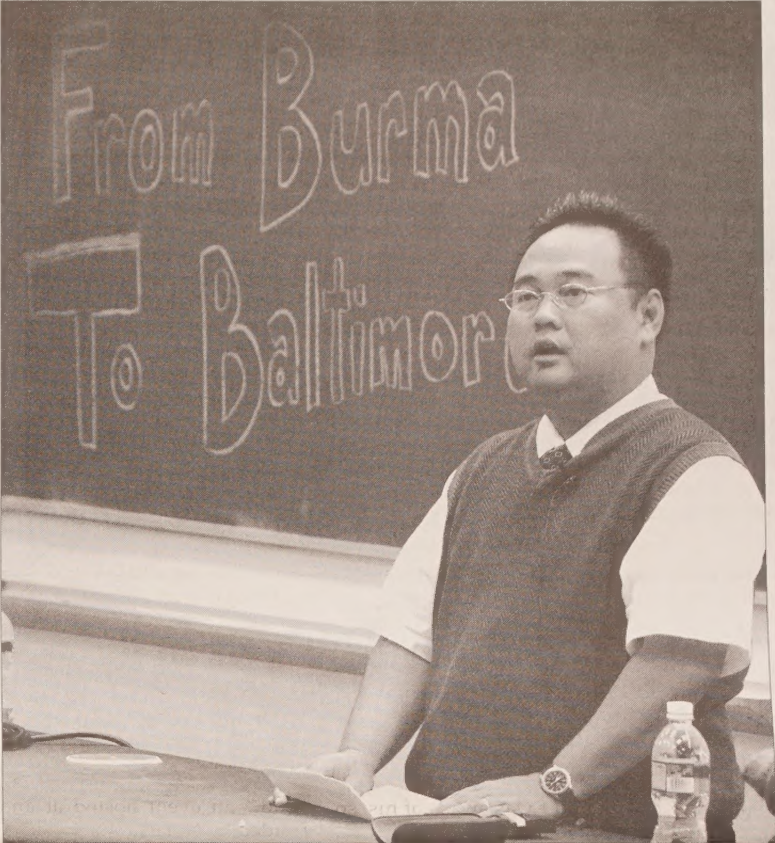
The Baltimore Resettlement Center is one component of the IRC’s global resettlement network. It serves as a one-stop-shop for refugees providing social and medical services.

The resettlement center ensures that newly arrives refugees are provided with a well furnished home, rent assistance, health care, English language classes, and job training and placement in addition to pro bono legal services towards residency and citizenship.

Ya said that the center has helped in acclimating to life in America and he has also been able to make a lot of new friends.

“A lot of American friends have been helping me fit in with American culture, I’m very thankful,” Ya said.

Ya and his organization of the Digital Democracy are currently working to create a petition to send to the Prime Minister of Malaysia regarding the treatment of Burmese refugees, who are often deported or trafficked illegally.



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Ya spoke about his experiences in a forced labor camp and his past and present social projects.

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CORRECTIONS

In the Nov. 12 issue, on page A2 in the headline of the article “MSE hosts Michael Steele and Aaron Schock,” Rep. Schock’s name was misspelled. His name was also misspelled in the headline and in the text of “An interview with Michael Steele and Aaron Schock.”

On page A7, in the article “Tucker Max arouses controversy,” Husain Danish should have been credited with additional reporting.

In the same issue, on page B3, in the article “Tucker Max talks dirty to crowded Shriver Hall,” Daniel Litwin should have been credited for the photo.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

NEWS & FEATURES

H1N1 vaccine available to third-priority students

By LAURA MUTH
News & Features Editor

Type A H1N1 influenza continues to be the predominant strain of flu circulating in the state of Maryland and at Hopkins.

As of Nov. 10, Alain Joffe, the director of the student Health and Wellness Center, explicitly stated that, "Right now there is no seasonal flu circulating in Maryland. Anyone who has the flu has H1N1."

As of the 11th, Hopkins received a new shipment of H1N1 vaccine doses and was able to begin offering the vaccine to the next priority level.

Previously, the vaccine was only being offered to students 18

years old and under with underlying health conditions such as asthma, a suppressed immune system, a chronic heart condition, diabetes or a neurological disease, or students within that age group who were also pregnant.

Those are the conditions most likely to lead to complications when combined with H1N1. However, with the new shipment, Hopkins is able to offer the vaccine to all undergraduates under 64 with those health conditions, as well as students who are the primary caregivers of a child six months or younger.

This priority level is known as Tier 1C.

This is in accordance with guidelines presented by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), which lays out the categories describing individuals most at risk for serious health complications if they get H1N1.

Those individuals would also be more at risk for complications if they caught seasonal flu, and so for a time the Health and Wellness required that students getting the swine flu vaccine also get the seasonal flu vaccine.

However, ac-

cording to an update on the Health and Wellness Center's Web site as of the 6th, that requirement has been waived because Health and Wellness has run out of seasonal flu vaccine. Also according to the Web site, they "do not anticipate getting more" of the seasonal vaccine.

Although broadcast e-mails have been sent out alerting students that the third priority group is now eligible to receive the vaccine, the Health and Wellness Center's Web site was last updated on Nov. 6, so it only mentions the first two priority levels.

As of this week, Maryland has reported 664 hospitalizations for H1N1, out of a total of 1,055 hospitalizations for all types of flu, according to www.marylandflu-watch.org.

H1N1 vaccine is available to students for free, since the state is covering the cost.

Maryland is also covering the cost of the vaccine for all state employees and retirees under their Health and Welfare Benefits program through June 30 of next year.

As of yesterday, 47,654,100 doses of swine flu vaccine have been allocated nationwide. Of those, so far 40,720,200 have been shipped around the country. 703,500 of those have been shipped to Maryland.

According to the Associated Press, as of the 12th H1N1 has affected roughly 22 million people in the U.S. Nearly 4,000 of those affected in the states have died as

a result of the disease, although figures can vary based on how the data is analyzed.

At the moment, only certain individuals considered to be at a high risk are receiving diagnostic testing to determine for certain if they have the flu and if so, what strain.

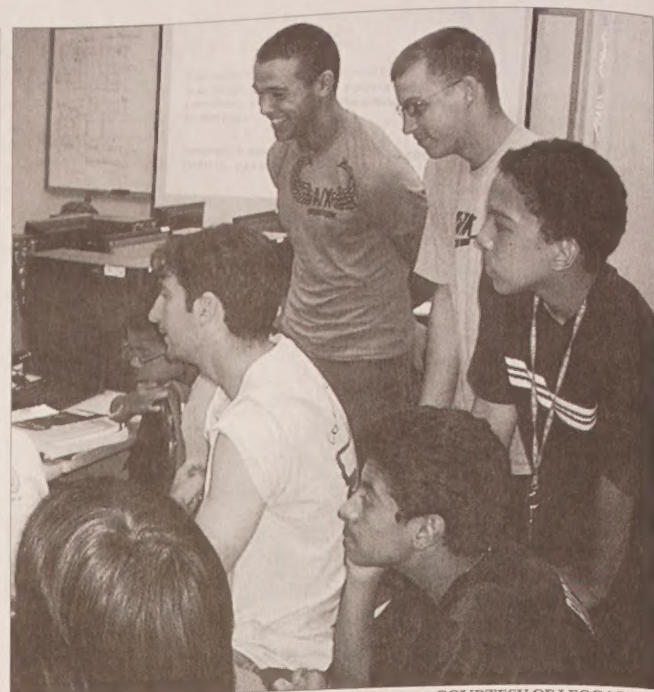
These individuals are those who required hospitalization because of their flu-like symptoms and pregnant women or people with suppressed immune systems, since a specific diagnosis may affect their treatment.

For mostly healthy individuals, a flu diagnosis would not have a major effect on their treatment. Since the actual test to determine what strain of flu a person can only be performed in a limited number of laboratories, the CDC deemed this focus on high-risk individuals necessary, according to its Web site.

In terms of treatment, the University and the CDC only recommend the use of antiviral drugs for individuals who are considered severely ill, generally to the point where hospitalization is required. Joffe explained this on the 10th.

"There is a real concern with the virus mutating," he said.

The University has no isolation ward, so students are advised to stay in their rooms and avoid campus events and classes if they are experiencing flu-like symptoms. Students diagnosed with H1N1 who live within three to four hours of Hopkins are also advised to go home to recover, according to Joffe.



COURTESY OF LEOGAS.NET

CTY is a Hopkins-sponsored summer program for middle and high school students.

Hopkins alumni gather for Center for Talented Youth reunion

By MEERA RAMAKRISHNAN
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, the Center for Talented Youth (CTY) held a reunion for participants of the program as an opportunity to reconnect and share their experiences.

As their mission states, CTY aims to, "seek students of the highest academic ability through its talent search and offer them challenging educational opportunities that develop the intellect, encourage achievement, and nurture social development."

Over 10,000 students participate in summer programs held in 27 sites around the country each year, and another 10,000 in online programs.

These programs are offered for students of all ages, from second grade to 12th grade.

This is the first reunion event since 2006, when CTY had some changes in administration.

"It is an opportunity to develop relationships that started at CTY to continue at Hopkins. It is a good way to keep communications with alumni," Sarah Shelfer, the associate of alumni relations who organized the reunion, said.

Around 30 students attended the event and met fellow CTY-ers, sharing memories from their particular program site.

While the event was composed mostly of mostly freshmen, there was a diverse group of students who attended various CTY programs. Many attended several programs throughout their middle-school and high school years.

"It's the best thing I've ever done," freshman Meggie Margrave, who attended the Princeton, Lancaster, Carlisle and St. Mary's programs, said.

"Everyone's nerdy and dorky, and it's a ton of fun, especially all the traditions," freshman Lina Huo said.

Although the students did not think that participating in CTY directly affected their decision to go to Hopkins, they believed it at least put Hopkins on the radar when considering schools to apply for.

"CTY is not intended to be a feeder for Hopkins, but because the caliber of these students is above average, they tend to attend prestigious institutions, such as Hopkins," director of communications Chuck Beck-

man said.

"Students get a flavor of the Hopkins experience in these programs. And the greatest benefit is the people they meet through CTY. Even if they don't attend the summer program at Hopkins itself, they get a quality of education that comes with the Hopkins name," communications coordinator Matt Bauder said.

"It felt really good to be in an environment that was really stimulating, with kids who wanted to learn as much as I did," freshman Eddie Brooks said.

According to the Office of Undergraduate Admissions, there were 1201 CTY-ers in the 2008 applicant pool, of which 501 were accepted. Beckman says there are typically 50-80 CTY students in each class.

Alums of CTY have gone on to become renowned members of society, like Sergei Brin of Google, Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook and Lady Gaga.

The directors of CTY offered students job opportunities as teaching assistants, resident advisors, and health advisors in future CTY programs.

CTY-ers show a lot of loyalty to the program, by coming back to work, donating to funds and having their own kids join CTY later.

"There is one family that has been with CTY for 22 years with all their children participating in our programs. Now that's loyalty," CTY executive director Lea Ybarra said. After 30 years of developing talent, CTY is still going strong despite current economic conditions.

In fact, Ybarra announced at the reunion plans to expand into more countries, such as Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia and Egypt. There's even a BizCamp here in Baltimore that allows students to develop their entrepreneurship skills and create a business plan.

Currently, students of CTY represent all 50 American states as well as 119 countries. This truly international program is likely to raise those numbers in the upcoming years and fulfill their vision to be "the world leader in the education of pre-collegiate students of high academic quality."

According to Shelfer, events like these are hosted so that the bright alums can create a family of support and opportunities to promote CTY and share their experiences with others.

Hopkins News in Brief

Hopkins revamps athletic hall of fame

Hopkins has unveiled a new display and location for the Athletic Hall of Fame in the Newton H. White Athletic Center.

The display features a plexiglass sheet with plaques of the athletes' names engraved next to an image of the Hopkins Blue Jay and the Hopkins emblem.

This effort is part of a two-part project to transform the lobby space of the building. The second part's goal is to transform the old Hall of Fame into a lounge for student athletes.

— By Sarah Tan

Carey Business School leases new space in East Harbor

Hopkins' Carey Business School has entered into a lease agreement with Legg Mason and H&S properties, the group developing Harbor East.

The arrangement will grant the university 80,000 square feet of space divided between the first, second, 12th and 13th floors.

The initial lease is for 10 years, with a provision to possibly extend it for another 10 years.

This new location will provide more space for classrooms as well as housing offices for faculty in the business school. Classes will continue to take place at the Carey Business School's already-established satellite locations in D.C. and Columbia and Rockville.

— By Laura Muth

New H1N1 treatment to begin trials at Hopkins Hospital

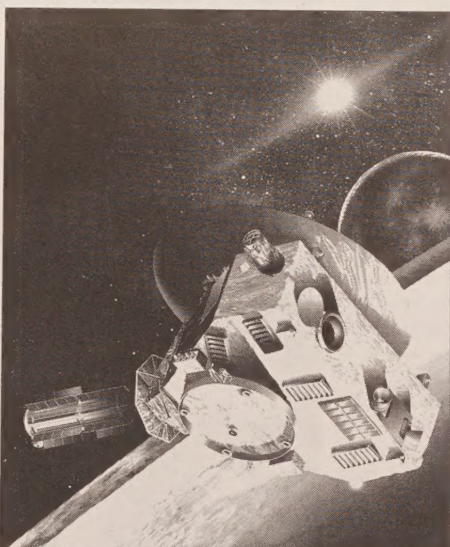
A vaccine developer called CEL-SCI Corporation (NYSE CVM) has announced that it will be conducting its first clinical trial of a treatment for H1N1 at the Hopkins Hospital.

The Ligand Epitope Antigen Presentation System (LEAPS) is based on technology that allows the company to guide an immune system's response to certain disease epitopes.

The trials are being led by Jonathan Zenilman, a professor of medicine at Hopkins and the Chief of Infectious Diseases Division at the hospital. They will involve taking blood samples from 20 patients who have been hospitalized and are confirmed to have

H1N1 and testing how their cells respond to the treatment. Blood samples will also be taken from a control group of 20 uninfected individuals to see how cells from healthy people respond to the same treatment.

— By Laura Muth



COURTESY OF NASA.GOV

The APL is planning to send a space craft to Pluto.

School of Nursing investigates shift in HIV infection demographics

The Hopkins School of Nursing is beginning to place emphasis on the potential for community-based research and outreach to deal with rising HIV infection rates among women in particular.

New investigation is being done into the correlation between domestic and sexual violence in HIV infection rates among women.

These trends are occurring both in areas like the U.S. where the disease can be treated and in countries like South Africa, where medical resources are considerably more limited.

One of the necessary changes researchers identified on medicalnewstoday.com is a better understanding among policymakers about how the populations most at-risk for contracting HIV have changed since the disease was first brought into the public eye in the early 80's.

— By Laura Muth

Drug previously used to treat gonorrhea can prevent tumor growth

Acirflavine, a medication developed in the 1930s to treat gonorrhea infections has in recent tests shown the unexpected benefit of preventing the growth of tumors in mice genetically engineered to develop cancer.

The new potential use of Acirflavine was discovered at the Hopkins School of Medicine. Essentially, the drug prevents the growth of new blood vessels, which in turn provide the oxygen necessary for tumors to grow.

— By Laura Muth

APL participates in experimental trip to Pluto with spacecraft New Horizons

The Hopkins Applied Physics Lab (APL), in conjunction with NASA and the Southwest Research Institute, is conducting a 10-year project to send the first space craft to study Pluto.

The craft was actually launched in 2006, and is just now reaching the halfway point in its 3 billion mile journey out.

The goal of the mission is to have the craft, *New Horizons*, map the surface of Pluto and characterize its atmosphere, which is hypothesized to have trace amounts of such familiar elements as methane and carbon monoxide in it.

By 2015 it will begin sending the information it gathers back to earth via a radio transmitter and 83-inch diameter radio antenna.

— By Laura Muth



COURTESY OF STATICPANORAMIO.COM

The Legg Mason Tower has arranged a lease with JHU's business school.

Student’s seizure during exam prompts discussion of “cut-throat” culture

SEIZURE, FROM A1
Hopkins is really that cut-throat.”

Evans said that the rumor was untrue. He was working as a teaching assistant in the section when Khalafi had a seizure and said that students seemed genuinely concerned before, after and when the event occurred.

“Students seemed compassionate about the situation. Some people came up to me afterwards and asked if he was alright, they did seem concerned,” Evans said.

Evans did, however, admit that when the incident initially occurred, the class seemed stunned and did not immediately react.

“It didn’t seem like a lot of people hopped up to help right away, but there were 100 people in there and what are 100 people going to do that four people can do in that situation?” Evans asked.

Evans added that students did stay to help out as well.

“I know one of his friends stayed with him after class, and there were two girls who helped also, although I don’t know their relationship to him,” Evans said.

Assistant TA Meredith Cline agreed.

“It was scary and shocking, we didn’t really know what to do. I don’t think anybody was like ‘Oh we’re not going to help him, we can do better’, because what’s one person if they do bad on their test? It doesn’t mean anything. I think most people were just worried about him,” Cline said.

The general response from Khalafi’s classmates seemed to be of concern as well, and many students stated that they initially did not react out of shock, not out of apathy.

“I think there was a collective, ‘Oh my God, what just happened’ and then people came running to help,” sophomore Bianca Cabri said.

“We were all just really

shocked, and didn’t really know what to do. I think rumors like this just kind of perpetuate that Hopkins student stereotype that we all just want to get ahead and we don’t care about anyone else. I really don’t think that’s the case here,” Cabri said.

“They’re taking a test, they’re in the zone. Five minutes left, they’re even more into the zone, and then something just distracts them completely,” said sophomore Akshay Krishnaswamy, another student who was taking the test in the same room as Khalafi.

For Krishnaswamy, his first reaction was shock

“At first it sounded like crying, so only after a few seconds did we realize he was having a seizure,” he said.

Krishnaswamy said that the response of students in the class was a mixture of feelings.

“I think [the response] was partially due to the fact that students were taking a difficult exam that counts for a large part of their grade, but a lot of it also had to do with the fact that a lot of students just didn’t know what to do. It was probably a mix of those things.”

Krishnaswamy and others also claimed that an extra, undisturbed five minutes might have been helpful to them.

“For the duration of the final five minutes, people were kind of distracted because of the seizure. I’m sure for a lot of people, that’s a crucial period because a lot of stuff can click in the last couple minutes,” Krishnaswamy said.

“I definitely lost my concentration . . . They could have just

given us another five minutes after afterwards, they didn’t have to go all out,” Cabri said.

Evans speculated that Khalafi’s seizure might have been brought on by not getting enough sleep or not eating healthy in the days leading up to the exam, and he said that he felt that students often get overstressed about exams, specifically in his class.

“The culture at Hopkins is that people obviously put a lot of emphasis on [classes], and it’s very competitive. Overall, I think people take it too seriously, it’s not the end of the world if you don’t get an A in the class, you can get B’s and still get into medical school,” Evans said.

Professor Christopher Falzone, who also teaches Organic Chemistry courses, said that he believes the stress and the competitive culture at Hopkins comes mostly from Hopkins being an institution with a lot of ambitious pre-meds.

“I think because we have one of the best medical schools in the country, we draw a large pre-med population. I think that large percentage has a nucleating effect for creating a competitive atmosphere,” Falzone said.

“Students put this course at the center of their universe.”

Krishnaswamy agreed, but he attributed the stressful environment on the structure of the Organic Chemistry courses, as well as the attitude of the professors teaching it.

He claimed that a lot of students get stressed out about Organic Chemistry exams in particular because of the struc-

ture of the course. There are two midterms and a final, and those are the only grades students receive.

“There’s a lot of pressure to perform on midterms as a result,” Krishnaswamy said.

“Professors always say at the beginning of a semester that if you keep up, you’ll do fine, and if you don’t, you’ll fail. They have a punishment-consequence thing, and so the myth that’s propagated is that you’re going to fail if you don’t keep up, and more than other classes here it’s really fear-driven.”

However, Falzone does not think that Hopkins students are so competitive as to put their GPA’s above the needs of another student.

“I’ve heard of students not telling others about review sessions, but I think students know that grades aren’t so important as to lose a limb over,” Falzone said.

Khalafi was given the option to drop this midterm grade and to just have his final grade be the average of his first midterm and his final, but he declined.

“I did extremely well on the exam, I was basically done. I was just doing an extra credit question when it happened. They gave me the op-

tion of dropping the exam, but I’m going to keep my A,” Khalafi said.

Khalafi does not have a pre-

vious history of seizures or epilepsy, and the cause for this particular seizure is yet to be determined.



COURTESY OF COLLEGEPROWLER.COM
Mudd Hall, where the Orgo exam was proctored and where Khalafi had a seizure

[Professors] have a punishment-consequence thing... and more than other classes here it’s really fear driven.

—AKSHAY KRISHNASWAMY,
SOPHOMORE BME

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Seizure during orgo test

Posted by anonymous 11/05/2009 02:53 PM | Last Reply 11/12/2009 09:16 PM

What is the guy's name? And is he ok? And damn those premeds who were able to work right through his tortured moans.

0 votes report

Ad

0 votes

Sponsored Advertisement

JOIN NOW Sometimes it pays to follow a crowd...

1

0 votes

report private message

Posted by anonymous guy 11/05/2009 03:00 PM

Are you fucking serious? Someone had a seizure? Damn.

And who cares if some pre-meds worked through his episode? Maybe they were deaf.

What's wrong with working through the test?

2

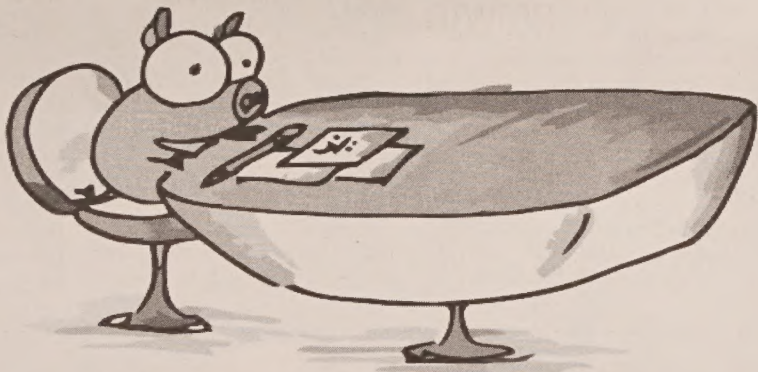
0 votes

report private message

Posted by anonymous 11/05/2009 03:54 PM

I got a 14 and 20 before in orgo and i never had a seizure. goddamn

COURTESY OF COLLEGEACB.COM
A screenshot of the JHUConfessions thread that chastised the class for their rumored lack of response.



This little piggy went to class
(he got his H1N1 vaccine).



This little piggy stayed
home sick with H1N1!

**Avoid missing class
by protecting against H1N1!**

Tier 1A: Students 18 and under with asthma or a suppressed/abnormal immune system.	Tier 1B: Students 18 and under with diabetes, neurological conditions such as seizures, or a serious heart condition (not high blood pressure).	Tier 1C: Same criteria as 1A and 1B except up to age 64
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Students meeting the above conditions are now eligible to receive H1N1 vaccinations at the Student Health & Wellness Center.

Call 410-516-8270 for an appointment.

NEWS & FEATURES

Sean Astin brings humor, insight and a bit of the Shire to Hopkins

ASTIN, FROM A1
to overcome biases or even more difficult to overcome from self-inflicted mistakes," Astin said. He then paused and joked, "Lucky for me I have never made a mistake."

As the audience laughed, Astin looked down to where his father was sitting, admitting that, "you might disagree with me, Dad."

Astin continued on a more serious note.

"The full magnitude of the consequences any of us face when we use our voices may not be fully or completely understood. In the old days if you stood on your soap box belting out your opinions, likely the worst thing that would happen is you would be ignored, or your reputation may be a little tarnished by word of mouth."

With advanced technology creating an instant and universal media, however, Astin felt that things have changed.

"The freedom of speech guaranteed us in the Bill of Rights could not reasonably have predicted the awesome advances in technology that would take place within such a short period of time. The amendment should have come with a warning label: 'Use at your own risk,'" he said.

Astin quoted author Thomas Friedman, who presented the idea that everyone has become a public figure. He then went on to discuss the dangers of this in modern life.

"Thoughtful people are extremely vulnerable and perhaps should be generally afraid to speak, afraid to act, afraid to be ourselves. This, more than just being a sad state of affairs as a new reality, is fundamentally dangerous — dangerous beyond our own individual safety," he said.

While increased technology can bring growth and development, Astin has seen it threaten the impact of powerful and important ideas.

Astin described the modern age as a "tsunami of information and access and universality with its knee-jerk, hyper-over-reaction and seriously deficient analytical consideration of events and their consequences."

He said that this is a time in which the ideas "that can affect real change and improve the status quo are quickly identified and ruthlessly attacked by entrenched forces whose interests are worth protecting at all costs."

While Astin did not directly identify these forces, he later mentioned his dislike for certain pundits with comedy tours.

Astin said that he is not opposed to political debate.

"We can sit at dinner and talk politics and make jokes and come away with you learning something and [me] learning something, issuing propaganda not based in fact designed to wreck the conversation... [but] we have to elevate the personalities and viewpoints who are sentient."

Astin felt that these forces have already worked to silence the voices of public figures, including actors.

"Of course it is right to be held accountable for our actions... it is prudent and necessary to be both skeptical and open-minded when subject to the views of any public speaker," he said, admitting that these views included "the musings and sometimes ramblings of a hobbit who was too small to get on the shire football team" (a reference to his most famous acting role).

Astin name dropped several of his films throughout the course of the speech, focusing mostly on the two roles that have helped make him a household name.

When Astin said he was going to, "offer you some of my thoughts leadership and a bit about fellowship," he paused, waiting for the audience to realize the reference to *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. He then pointed out the reference in a brief aside. "Title of the movie. We got it."

Some of the references were not as successful, leaving Astin jokingly flustered. When the crowd did not get a reference to his role in the film *Toy Soldiers*, Astin commanded that they should "get older."

A reference to Data's Pincher's of Peril from *The Goonies* also drew little response from the crowd.

"You gotta do your research before you come to these symposiums," Astin lightheartedly chided.

But when Astin presented his vision — "It's a good vision," he said in mock-outrage when the statement was met with laughter — the speech took on a more serious and thoughtful tone.

Astin related an experience he had had after a speech he gave on making connections between the elderly and at-risk youth in order to benefit both age groups.

The speech was given during a speaking tour he was on while serving as part of the National Council on Service and Civic Participation. Astin was appointed to the board, which works to promote a culture of volunteerism, by then-President George W. Bush — though Astin admitted that he had not voted for Bush.

Astin had always considered himself a political junkie, but when he was approached by the head of the AARP and asked what role he wanted to play, the actor froze up.

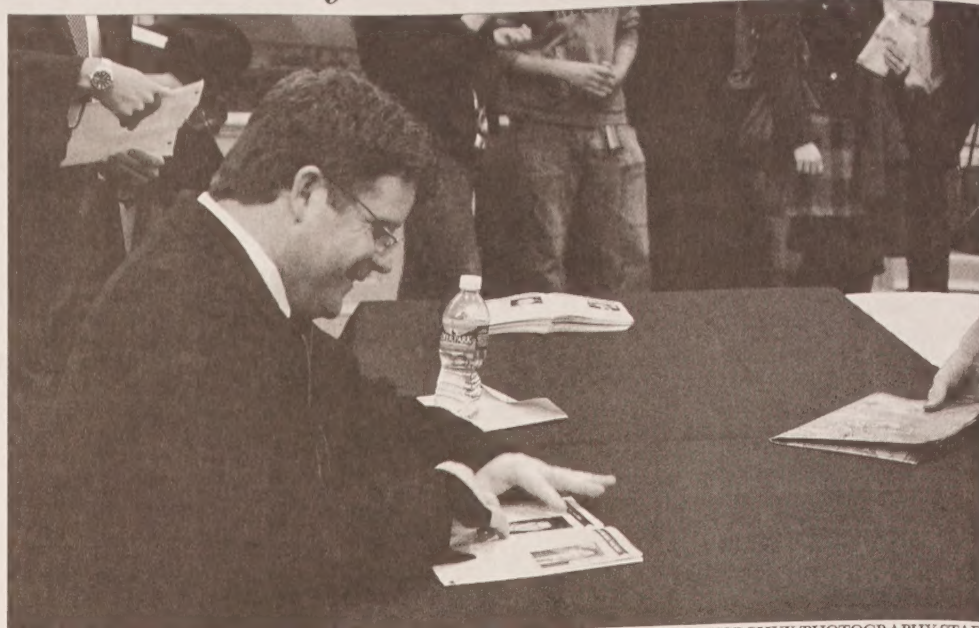
In that moment he considered his future in politics, and remembered, "the marble floors I had walked on in the capitol, the bright lights of the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the countless hours of C-Span, my visits to Walter Reed... every good thing and bad thing I had said and done in my entire life flashed before my eyes."

"I had always held officials to an ideal standard and now suddenly I wasn't sure I could meet it," he said.

While this was the moment where Astin felt his chance at a political career was closed off, the question "what role do you want to play" was one that he continued to reflect upon.

"I suppose it could be a theological or metaphorical question, or a professional or family question. I take it to mean the obvious: What role do you want to play in the big game, in life, in society?"

Astin then transitioned into talking more about his role in the movies, admitting that that is what most audiences want to hear about. He described the experience of filming *The Lord*



MARY DZWORCHYK/PHOTOGRAPHY STAFF

Actor Sean Astin signed many autographs for fans and those who attended his speech at the MSE symposium on Tuesday.

of the Rings as "incredible. Incredible, meaning not to be believed," and noted that the time they had spent filming the three films in the series equalled the time it would take to complete a master's program.

"It was enlightening and inspiring and intimidating and fulfilling all at the same time... plumbing the very depths of my soul to discover new layers of joy and pain that I didn't know had existed," Astin said.

When the difficulties of filming became too much, Astin took solace in the beauty of the New Zealand location.

"The landscape was the most jaw-dropping salvation every time you remembered to open your eyes and breath deep the freshest air on this green earth."

Seeing the final product was "something approaching the sensation of immortality."

After these descriptions, Astin summed the experience up with a humorous touch.

"It was, you know, pretty good... The big hairy feet were sticky, it was a real volcano we filmed on, and Orlando Bloom was really that cute," he said.

Some of the biggest laughs and applause came from Astin speaking in the voice of his character, Samwise Gamgee, and referencing an Internet video built around his lines about potatoes.

"You've all been so patient in listening to all these serious things, you deserve it," he said.

It is in his movie roles that

Astin drew inspiration for his answer to the question of what role he wants to play. Astin said that he has chosen to be a leader, something that was characterized by both his role as the titular protagonist in *Rudy*, and his role as Sam in *The Lord of the Rings*.

For Astin, *Rudy* "captures in a deeply emotional way how grit and determination can be the great equalizer between groups in our society."

He noted that having good leadership qualities can help a person to "crawl out from others low expectations of ourselves."

Before the onslaught of media attention robbed him of some of his privacy, Astin felt that he and Sam shared a similar view of happiness being synonymous with home.

"In a very real way I had a pretty simplistic world view, perhaps an enviable world view, perhaps a naive and simplistic one," he said.

Astin acknowledged that the characteristics Sam best embodied — goodness, loyalty, decency and bravery — are difficult to apply in the real world. He added, though, that "from an ideal literary character we can see what is possible."

"*Rudy* and Sam evoke passionate beautiful feelings from people, and I've been blessed to interact with people who have been deeply touched by these movies," he said.

Many who attended the symposium were some of those who had been touched by Astin's

films, and in turn welcomed the chance to hear him speak.

Freshman Janice Duncan, a Lord of the Rings fan, found the section of the speech devoted to leadership to be "really inspiring."

Because he is minoring in theater, junior Rob Powers had hoped to hear more about Astin's acting experience, but was still satisfied with the speech.

"He managed to balance [talking about acting] so well with the other things he had to say about cultivation of the self and of family and of those ideas that make you successful," Powers said.

Senior Emily Daly said she attended the speech because of her respect for Astin's work, and her desire to learn about a career in acting, a future that she has been considering.

"He addressed questions I myself have been grappling with about the relationship between media and the political," she said.

MSE Programming Chair Daniel Ingram felt that Astin provided a nice culmination to this year's series, which was based around the theme "A Transition Between Generations in a Changing America."

"It kind of brought everything together. He discussed really why our theme is relevant to the student body... why young people like us are important in society and why it's important for us to take active roles in politics and service," he said.

Nuisance ordinance causes confusion and controversy in Charles Village

NOISE, FROM A1
police report written about them.

"When you're talking about the nuisance ordinance, it can just be a matter of a police report. It isn't necessarily a warning. We don't have to give them a warning. If they have a police report, if the police come and write a report, that's considered a strike. The occupants of the house may not even be aware that a report was written," Gibson said.

Hopkins students have reportedly been arrested because of noise-related incidents. One senior who asked to remain anonymous was imprisoned due to reports of excessive noise over the summer.

"It was absolutely capricious, and in my opinion just a tactic to placate neighbors who were likely looking on," he wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

According to the student, he and another student resident of the house were escorted from their house and were "told that we were being arrested for disorderly conduct."

The student said that upon arriving at the jail, he was told that no charges would be filed against either of them.

Despite the night in jail, the student does see some merit to the nuisance ordinance.

"The noise ordinance is probably a good thing. I just wish I knew what the actual rules were. They seem to change all the time. There has to be a way that college students can have their friends over for a beer without angering the entire world," he wrote.

According to Student Community Liaison Carrie Bennett, the ordinance has not been strictly enforced.

"I am not certain the ordinance has really been 'enforced' since I know of no one that has been taken to court," she wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

City Council President Stephanie Rawlings-Blake has also been disappointed by the effectiveness of the noise ordinance.

"The Council President supports ordinances that provide additional enforcement tools to communities to address nuisances, Ryan O'Doherty, Rawlings-Blake's Director of Policy and Communication, wrote in an email to the *News-Letter*. "The 'Neighborhood Nuisance' ordinance, however, has not been as effective."

According to O'Doherty, Rawlings-Blake is considering ways to strengthen the nuisance, but did not give specific examples of what that would entail.

Gibson believed that the Neighborhood Nuisance ordinance has been helpful in reducing excessive noise.

"It does help. It's not so much that the students are afraid of it, [since] they're just going to get kicked out. The landlord is the one that risks having their property shut down and losing their revenue for a year. It gives us a lot more leverage with the landlord to make sure they're not trying to over-occupy the house and that they are not just renting to anybody. Certain houses are probably more suited for graduate students than five guys that are first time living off campus,"

he said.

Walter also felt that the ordinance "has been a benefit to the community."

Students living in the "Water Polo House," a residence on the 100 Block of 32nd St., have been involved in several noise related incidents.

"A couple times the police came to our door when we were watching a monday night football game with a couple friends. Other times they have come when we were away the whole weekend for a tournament. Other times we were getting f-king rowdy and deserved it," house resident Reid Fox wrote in an e-mail to *The News-Letter*.

Fox feels that the ordinance itself is not necessary.

"Charles Village is a college town, whether people around here like it or not. It's only going to continue to expand as the school continues to grow. As far as their effectiveness, a noise complaint doesn't really mean anything to us. If a neighbor wants us to keep the noise down, just call and ask. Easy as that," he wrote.

While the noise ordinance authorizes the city to take legal action, including eviction, against people causing excessive noise, that is not the only response the city can take.

"That could be a penalty but I don't think it's mandatory," Walter said.

According to Walter, the police prefer to work out issues without necessarily getting the court system involved.

"We try to resolve it through our community relations of-

fice-going out and talking to the parties, advising them of the nuisance ordinances and what the possible penalties are. A lot of times that resolves it. The next step is mediation," he said.

If the police continue to receive reports of nuisance violations, however, they can take action through the state attorney's office. However, the city is not required to take action against a residence after two noise-related police reports.

"The two reports alone doesn't mean you automatically get a nuisance action taken against you. You could conceivably get three or four reports and maybe nothing would happen," Gibson said.

Gibson said that action is based on community concern and student reaction to the reports.

"If you had four reports and they are kind of spread out, and the students are not really having too much problems with their neighbors, they're apologetic or maybe it's just a random thing and it's not that big of a deal, they may end up with no action at all."

But some students worried that the houses are being blamed for noise that is not being generated from inside their residence.

"I guess it's just upsetting that when we are being so conscious of keeping the noise down by keeping the music down [and] people off the porch... the cops still end up showing up at our house because [of] the people walking in the few blocks around our

house," Fox wrote.

The noise ordinance is not an issue for students living in University housing.

"If they are on campus, the campus police and the campus security and the Dean's office and the Housing office can certainly deal with those on an individual basis," Walter said, adding that it would be rare that the Baltimore Police would need to be called in for noise-related issues in Hopkins dormitories.

According to some students, the ordinance makes them more cautious about noise.

Both the University and the police felt they have made efforts to makes sure students are aware of the noise ordinance so they can avoid legal trouble.

"We look to Carrie Bennett and we look to the University to try and nip this stuff in the bud so we don't have to come in and deal with it. We really don't want to go and put students out of their house in the middle of the year or arrest them and send them down to central booking. We really try and do everything we can to avoid that," Gibson said.

Steps include having Bennett, Gibson and a designated officer patrolling around Hopkins. In addition, Gibson said that District Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke and a neighborhood representative have done a door-to-door informational campaign each fall since the ordinance was enacted.

Clarke could not be reached for comment by *The News-Letter* before press time.

Turning has also worked to

make sure students involved in Greek organizations are aware of the noise ordinance.

"We invite Carrie Bennett to the first Inter-Fraternity Council meeting of each semester. She explains the ordinance, how it is enforced, and the implications of not complying with the ordinance," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Bennett also speaks with sorority chapters about the implications for groups of their members living together in Charles Village housing, and will meet on request with individual chapters to talk about the ordinance.

When the ordinance was first passed by the city council, many members of the Hopkins viewed it in a highly negative light.

"This opens itself to abuse. It can become an instrument of neighborhood conflict. People have to realize that cities are noisy and there are plenty of things than could disturb the peace," Political Science Professor Matthew Crenson told *The News-Letter* in 2007.

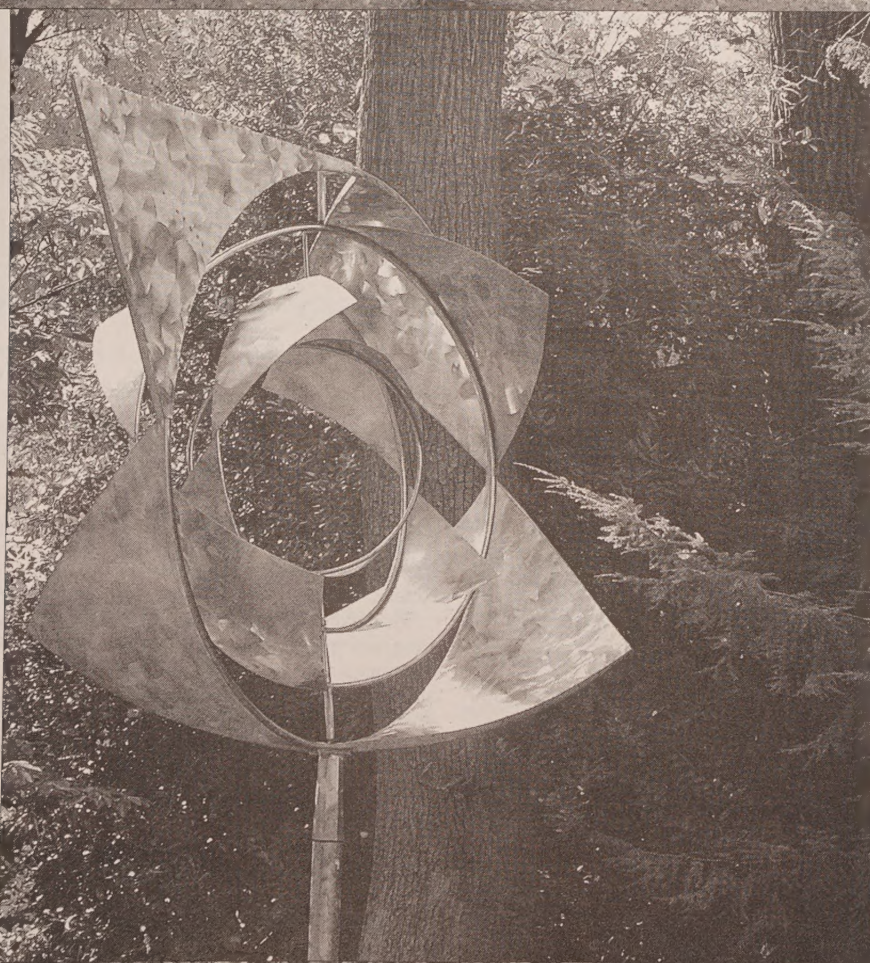
Robert Turning, Director of Greek Life, claimed that the ordinance would be used to target college students, especially members of fraternities and sororities.

"Because our members wear letters and call themselves a group they have a spotlight on them... they're more recognizable than three women living in a random house having loud, disruptive events," he told *The News-Letter* in 2007.

—Additional Reporting by Jewel Edwards-Waldo

RYDA AND ROBERT H. LEVI
SCULPTURE GARDEN

Autumn



By Lainey Yu

NEWS & FEATURES

News in Brief

City Briefs



FILE PHOTO

The jury must now decide the fate of Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon.

Prosecutors rest their case against Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon

This morning, state prosecutors rested their case against Baltimore Mayor Sheila Dixon.

Dixon is on trial for criminal theft.

Although prosecutors had been expected to call on Robert H. Lipscomb, Dixon's former boyfriend, to testify but ultimately chose not to after Dixon's defense attorney called his trustworthiness into question in his opening statement.

The prosecutors called 19 witnesses.

ment of the Belvedere Hotel has been declared a public nuisance in an administrative hearing on Monday.

Under city law, a building that has been declared a public nuisance can be padlocked by the police for up to a year. The clubs owners also have the option of submitting a "public safety plan." Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefield III will make the final decision.

The complaints were caused by armed robberies, stabbings, fights and a shooting that occurred outside the club.

The Suite Ultralounge is a bottle club. Patrons bring their own alcohol.

Recently, a Circuit Court Judge overturned a decision by the Liquor Board to revoke the club's license.

made tanning salons off limit to minors while on Tuesday, Howard County issued a ban on all indoor tanning for people under the age of 18.

This is the first such ban in the United States. It was passed unanimously by the Howard County Board of Health.

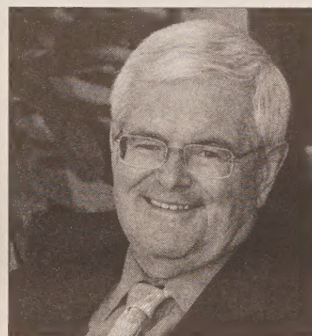
The pushes to restrict minors from using tanning salons is caused by a recent report from the World Health Organization stating that people under 18 are more likely to get skin cancer if they use tanning beds.

Gingrich, Sharpton and Duncan visit public schools in Baltimore

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, the Rev. Al Sharpton and US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan visited several schools in Baltimore on Friday.

They were working to support education reform and called on the Maryland government to give charter schools more autonomy.

The group has already visited Philadelphia and Gingrich and Sharpton visited schools in Arizona and Alabama together.



CREDIT

Former House speaker Newt Gingrich.

—All Briefs by Peter Sicher

In Other College News

Autonomy for Oregon public universities under consideration

David Frohnmayer, the recently retired president of the University of Oregon recommended a report that calls for giving the University of Oregon, Oregon State, and Portland State the autonomy of a state-assisted public corporation. However, legislators believe this to be unlikely to be discussed in the state legislature's 2010 session because budget problems might overshadow the issue. The move for more autonomy would make it easier for these public universities to raise money.

President of Cuesta College resigns after less than two years in office

The president of Cuesta College David Pelham abruptly quit on Nov. 17. He had been president since March 2008. He criticized his leadership of the community college, and he will be taking up a new position in a college in Abu Dhabi after stepping down in December of this year.

California State University students protest budget cuts

California State University students called the Board of Trustees in a campaign on Wednesday to tell the university that they will not stand for more budget cuts. However, the university said that it must cut corners because otherwise, they will not be able to admit more students. Students hope that the call to the Board of Trustees will get more funding from CSU's system.

Texas A&M holds 10 year anniversary to honor students killed in fire

Texas A&M held a 10-year anniversary service to honor the collapse of the annual college's bonfire. The incident, which occurred in 1999, injured 27 people and killed 12. The bonfire memorial had more than 5,000 attendees and it took place on Wednesday at 2:42 am, the time when the bonfire collapsed. The bonfire tradition, since the incident in 1999, is not held anymore.

Researcher studies differences between caged and uncaged chickens

Researcher Peter Skewes of Clemson University is leading research on studies comparing caged chickens and non-caged chickens and their emotional state and the quality of eggs laid by both groups. Skewes will also be comparing the behavior of the two groups, to determine their emotional state of being. Many animal rights advocates support his research, and view it as proof that cage-free chickens would provide a solution for healthier eggs and poultry.



COURTESY OF WWW.SCREENSAVE.COM

New frog species have been discovered by biologists in Illinois.

University of Northern Colorado considers disbanding fraternity

The Delta Chi fraternity at the University of Northern Colorado is trying to keep its fraternity status at the university after many accusations of hazing and other inappropriate activities. The Dean of Students has alleged that many of their activities endanger the health of students, and a review board found that the fraternity had violated five areas of the Student Code of Conduct. The fraternity has since lost the right to participate in any school-sponsored events. They will be barred for the next four years.

Three new species of frogs discovered by university professors

The professor of biology at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington, Illinois, Edgar Lehr is one of two scientists who has discovered three new species of frogs that live in the Peruvian forests. His partner, Alessandro Catenazzi of UC Berkeley have discovered 10 species of amphibians overall. The three new species discovered do not go through a tadpole phase.

University of Minnesota attempts to reduce drinking at football games

The University of Minnesota is beginning a program entitled Check BAC (pronounced Check Back) to promote responsible drinking behaviors at the university's football games.

The school's TCF Stadium is supposed to be alcohol-free, and so for a time there was a rule that any student under age 21 caught drinking or with a blood alcohol content (BAC) of 0.08 or higher could be ejected from the game and banned from returning for future games.

However, the Check BAC program gives students kicked out once a second chance. Before attending a game, they check in with a university administrator and take a breathalyzer test. If their BAC level is below 0.08 they are allowed to attend that day's game.

The program at Minnesota is modeled on a similar one enacted at the University of Wisconsin to curb binge drinking behaviors at sporting events.

Senior at Ferrum College shot in hunting accident

On Tuesday, a Ferrum College senior was shot in what appears to be an accident. The student, Jessica Goode, was out collecting specimens for a science class with two classmates when a hunter mistook them for deer moving through the woods and shot at them, killing Goode and injuring one of the other students.

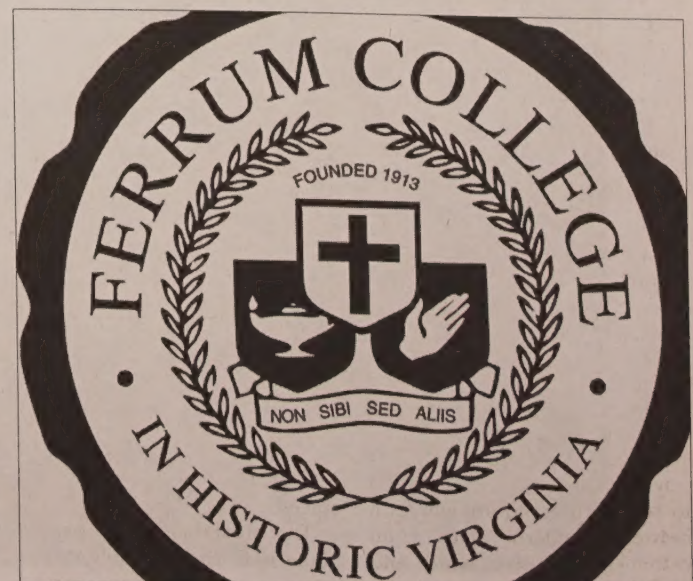
The hunter in question, a 31 year-old man by the name of Jason David Cloutier, is being charged with manslaughter, reckless handling of a firearm and trespassing. The investigation is also looking into whether or not he was intoxicated at the time of the accident.

A memorial service was held Wednesday and was widely attended by Ferrum students.

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NEWS & FEATURES

Do the math: Pick clothes that fit

Fashion is subjective but mathematical rules sometimes apply

Writing this column for three years now, I must confess that it's been getting harder and harder to come up with legitimate things to write about.

So I've been asking around for ideas and that helps most of the time. But this week, I actually did not have any idea what to write about, so I decided to make things interesting.

I'm going to talk about the mathematical proportionalities in fashion and clothing.

I hope reading that sentence made you laugh, because I sure did when I wrote it. What the f--- do I exactly mean by mathematical proportionality in clothing?

Well for one, take men's suiting. It's fairly easy for any bystander to differentiate within a group of suited men, who is wearing a nice suit and who is not, based simply on how the suit fits: its proportionality to the wearer's body.

Take the jacket; is it too big or too tight? You should be able to fit a fist between your stomach and jacket when it's buttoned up. Some refer to this as the Rule of Fisting.

Moreover, when wearing the jacket, you should be able to cup your fingers underneath the jacket's bottom edge with your hands straight at your side.

If you can't do it, then your jacket's too long. What about the proportionality between jacket and shirt? Standing with your hands at your side, your jacket should stop somewhere between a quarter to half of an inch above the cuff of your shirt.

What about the all-important necktie? Skinny, or moderately skinny, ties have been in style for a long time now, but how skinny is too skinny? Believe me, there is such thing as too skinny and too fat of a tie.

My best advice: your tie should be about half the width of your forehead. You may know this in its pithy equation form: $T=W/2$. As a general rule of thumb, your tie should never be more than three inches by today's standards. Not three and a quarter, three inches or less.

And I'm just going to go ahead and say it probably shouldn't be less than an inch in width either, unless you're an uber-fashionable rockstar.

What other proportionalities can I possibly think of? What about V-necks? It's a well-documented fact that your level of douche is directly proportional to how low your V-neck drops, the "V-neck-Douche Phenomena" as it's known in the primary literature. Keep your V-necks relatively subdued and high-cut. What about sleeve length? Too

often I see guys with sleeves that dip below elbow length, and it really just does not look good.

Sleeves, especially those on polo shirts, should reach to where your deltoid muscle meets your bicep and triceps. Any lower and you look unkempt. Any higher and you're being risky.

Keep in mind that the likelihood of you being a tool increases to infinity as the length of your sleeve approaches zero. The limit to your tool-ness does not exist, if you may.

What about pants? Sitting in my living room, writing this article right now, the weather is beautiful outside and a lot of people will be wearing shorts.

I've been noticing the trend of younger men wearing higher-cut shorts, and I love it. Shorts cut to just above the knee are orders of magnitude more sophisticated than shorts that reach your shins.

But then again, shorts cut ridiculously higher are just that, very ridiculous when worn by men. The proportionality a very fine one, but once you cross the threshold, you'll understand where I'm coming from.

Same goes with pants, how tight and baggy should they be? I generally err on the side of relatively skinny jeans, because they make me look taller and more refined.

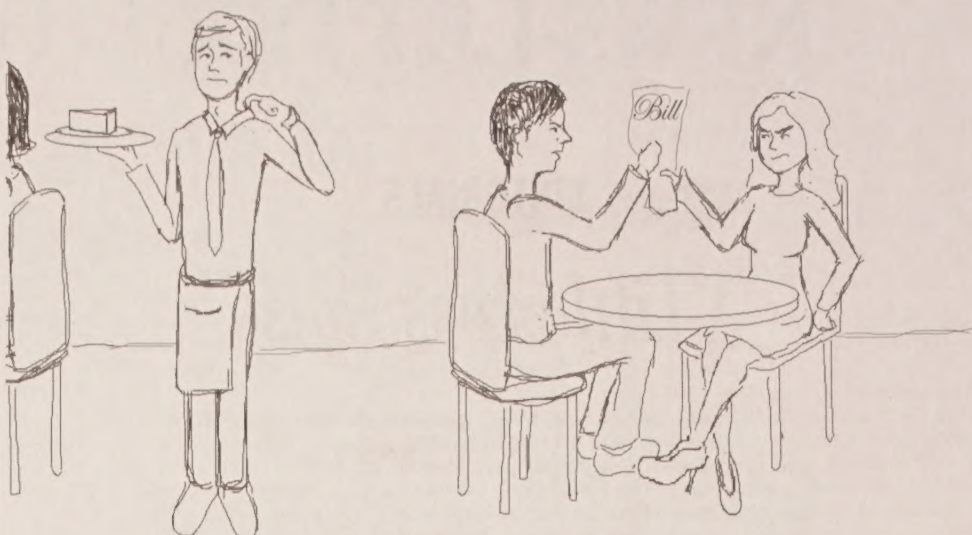
Baggy is a teenage lifestyle. Try applying the Rule of Fisting here: if you can fit about a fist between your ankle and pant leg, then you're in a good zone. Cuff your jeans about an inch or less so they don't break over your legs when you stand up straight.

These are just a couple things I could think of when it comes to getting the right fit or proportionality.

Obviously, I've had a little too much fun with this article, probably because I've spent a little too much time taking classes in the math department, but I'm not complaining.

No one can say that fashion is an esoteric culture; I literally just applied basic mathematical concepts to simplify fashion for you.

After all, isn't that why we're all here at Hopkins? To learn the basics of our chosen fields of study, so we can then apply them in the real world?



ANNE FABER/GRAPHICS EDITOR

The price of a relationship

What does it mean to pay for a girl? Is there a difference between buying her a movie ticket, buying her dinner and buying her an anniversary present?

It depends, I suppose, on what you are trying to accomplish.

My current girlfriend and I constantly fight over who pays for what. At the beginning of our relationship, there was no question; I paid for everything. That's the way I was raised and that's the way I like it.

Where I come from — the land of kissing cousins and obese Wal-Mart shoppers slowly draining scooter batteries — the man is expected to pay for every aspect of an outing. Man is provider; woman has babies, so says God. Amen. Under this line of thinking, those of you who are offended by the sentiment that women should be taken care of are stupid. It's a sweet gig. You get free s--t.

After spending three years at Hopkins, however, I've learned that much of my upbringing is no longer applicable. I've learned that no one knows what I mean when I say that I'm "fixing" to do something.

I've learned that plenty of guys around here have lost touch with their manlier side and now break a sweat just lifting their book bags. I've learned that women don't expect to be treated nicely. Hell, I've learned that they take offense if you treat them too nicely.

But why would anyone object to a free meal? Are they practitioners of an international meal-to-sex exchange rate that says an appetizer equates to a hand-job, a beer to a blow-job and a steak to an impromptu bathroom bendover? If so, my conversions have

all resulted in the sexual-world equivalent of pesos. That's not why I pay for my date's meal. I pay for my date's meal because to let a girl pay for my sustenance is to let her take a girthy strap-on to my ego. It hurts.

Alone in my opinion on tab-grabbing, I feel like I've been stranded on an island. Fortunately, 21st century man's virility is here to keep me company. Really, there's not much left to the classic idea of man providing for woman.

Women here at Hopkins have proudly thrown off the torturous yolk of thoughtful gifts and free meals so that they can live their lives. Oh, how long they struggled with selfless boyfriends and the concept of chivalry — their suffering must have been horrendous. Now, when some country bumpkin like me reaches for the check at dinner, he must be ready to withdraw his hand before it is smashed into oblivion by an assertive female claw wrapped around a birth control regimen.

Still, I refuse to abandon my laurels. My date may not appreciate the gesture but, later on that night, when I'm alone in my room with the lights out, I'll know that the big, strong arms wrapped around me are those of a gentleman.

To be fair, though, I will point out that, for every few girls who launch into a brief history of the women's lib movement at the dinner table, I will find one who is pleasantly surprised by what I'm trying to do. My sophomore year, I took a girl out to dinner at

a fine dining establishment (The toothpicks were minty!). When the check arrived at the table, I reflexively pulled out my wallet as she reached for her purse.

"No way," I said from across the table.

She froze with her hand in her purse. She looked at the check (which I may or may not have tilted somewhat in her direction so that she could see the total) for a moment before looking back at me.

"Really?"

"Put your purse down," I said.

I can't put into words the expression that crossed her face. Her pupils began to 69 one another. The

hair on my legs was singed by the sheer heat that began to radiate from under the table.

That meal was the greatest investment I have ever made. I went into it a pauper and came out a Dictator of Dong, the iron-fisted overlord of Orgy Island. I stuck with my guns and it got me blessed.

So, fellas, the next time a girl offers to "go Dutch," laugh in her face and yank the check from her child-like hands.

Your footing the bill may turn out to be a down payment on a good night. If not, you will at least leave the restaurant with your role as a capable provider intact.

If you simply can't man up and pay for a girl and your attachment to money is more powerful than your attraction to the opposite sex, do us all a favor and go deep-throat a cattle prod because you, my friend, are of use to no one.



Rip Bussey
Southern Comfort



COURTESY OF SUITSMEN.CO.UK

A proper fitting jacket should leave enough space between the cloth and your stomach for a fist.

Spices will help push a good dish toward greatness, but nothing can save bad cooking

What excited the Spanish the most when Christopher Columbus returned from the New World was not the gold but the plethora of unknown spices he brought back with him. In fact, back then, spices were worth their weight in gold.

Though it may sound ridiculous to us today, wars were once fought over supplies of black pepper. Only recently have the great masses been able to afford and enjoy the flavors and textures offered by spices.

Yet, to my disgust, we continue to treat spices as luxury items. For some weird reason, we cringe at the word spicy. We become tense with a hint of fear.

Well, I am here to put your fears to rest. Let us get pass one issue — not all spices are spicy. Now that last statement probably sounds stupid, but there is truth in it. When we hear the word spice, we typically think of red chili powder or cayenne peppers. Yes, these are spices and they are very spicy, but they are not the only kinds of spice.

In fact, spice flavors can range anywhere from sweet to bitter to sour to hot and anywhere in between. The term "spice" is an extremely inclusive word and includes every imaginable part of the plant like the seed, bark, fruit, leaf or root of a plant. One

of my favorite spices that my mother often uses in cooking rice is called "pathar ka phool" which is the dried petals of a flower. Not only does it give the rice a nice sweet, aromatic flavor but also adds great texture.

Have you ever wondered what the difference is between an herb and a spice? Spices come from plants that are typically found only in the tropical parts of the world, like India, Malaysia or the Caribbean. Herbs are soft, succulent plants that tend to grow only in the temperate areas of the world. However, many of the same rules apply when cooking with either spices or herbs.

In order to really be able to use spices properly in cooking, we need to understand some of the chemistry behind the flavors of spices. In most cases, the molecules that give spice its unique flavor can only dissolve in oil. Thus, it only makes sense that you need to use oil to extract the full flavor from spices.

The mistake many people make is to throw whole spices into a soup or dish and expect the flavors to get released. However, if you want to get

the full value of the spice, you need to do more. For example, when making lentil soup, my dad will often heat fennel seeds and chili peppers in oil before he adds the whole mix into the soup. By doing this initial prep work, my dad ensures that the full range of flavors that the chili peppers and fennel seeds have to offer are in the soup and not still trapped inside the spices.

You can also get more flavors out of spices if you grind them before you use them. This is because ground spices tend to give up their flavors more quickly than whole spices. By grinding spices before using them, you usually end up using less of your ingredient and getting more flavor in return.

Another common mistake people make is that they use old spices. Unlike other foods, the flavor of spices does not improve with time. While spices never spoil, they do lose their strength. Spices should be stored in cool, dry, airtight containers. If stored properly, spices can maintain their potency for a long time — four years in the case of whole spices, two to three years for ground spices and a year for herbs. However, if stored improperly, spices can lose their fla-

vor in as little as six months. When buying spices, it is best to buy in small amounts rather than in bulk.

Spices are extremely versatile and can be employed in various different dishes. I like to add cardamom to my tea. Not only does it give the tea a great aroma but it also adds a slightly sweet flavor. During important occasions throughout the year, my family adds saffron to milk. The saffron gives the milk a golden yellow hue as well as a honey-like aroma. Imparting a slightly bitter flavor, saffron is a perfect complement to any dessert.

There are only so many ways you can cook a steak but, in my opinion, there are an infinite number of ways you can season a steak. Spices go a long way in adding creativity to cooking. When my father cooks, he does not add any specific combination of spices.



COURTESY OF WETHERSFIELD.K12.CT.US

Spices can come from many different parts of tropical plants and do not always taste "spicy."

es. Rather, he adds spices based on what seems right to him at the moment. Spices have the ability to transform food and transport the diner to far away mystic lands. With spices you can fuse different styles and cultures together, creating dishes that not only please the palette but also stimulate the mind. When cooking with spices, experimentation is key.

A word of warning: adding spices is no substitute to cooking.

No amount of spices will ever save a horribly cooked dish. Also, there is such a thing as too many spices.

TV culinary chef James Beard once said, "I believe that if ever I had to practice cannibalism, I might manage if there were enough tarragon around." While the statement is slightly macabre, it speaks to the power that spices and herbs have. Take the challenge and dare to add some spice into your life.

Husain Danish
Guest Column

THE JOHNS HOPKINS NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIALS

A Little Less Noise

Baltimore City police officers recently arrested and detained a Hopkins student for his violation of the Neighborhood Nuisance Law, an occurrence that Hopkins Student/Community Liaison Carrie Bennett had warned would be a likely consequence of the recent mandate for written reports by officers responding to noise complaints. "I have reason to believe that many officers will justify having to write a report by also making arrests," she wrote in a February e-mail.

This event draws attention to the often secretive enforcement of the controversial policy. Any time a complaint is made, via a simple call to the police, a full report must be written. Two such reports in a six month period may be grounds for eviction. Astonishingly, there is no corresponding requirement that police investigate the complaint, or even notify the accused resident that a complaint has been lodged. This means that a student (students are obviously the primary targets of this legislation) could find himself facing eviction without even having been made aware that he had done anything wrong. A student can be forcibly removed from his home and end up spending a night in prison because of an unreasonably sensitive neighbor.

No resident of Charles Village should be surprised to discover that he is living among college students. Hopkins has been based on Homewood campus and around for more than a century. In general, Hopkins students have a reputation for being fairly well-behaved, but any college is going to go to produce its fair share of noisy parties. Dana Petersen Moore, President of the Charles Village Civic Association, said, "There seems to be a constant problem with students gathering, being loud and rowdy and disrespectful." This has been the culturally acceptable standard for college student behavior for many years,

particularly since the 1960s. If you do not want to live in that type of environment, do not move near a college. If you do not like bright lights, do not move to New York City. If you do not like the cold, do not move to Alaska. Hopkins did not suddenly move into Charles Village and plague a nice, quiet neighborhood where everyone goes to bed by 10 p.m. Hopkins makes a strong effort to live in peace with the non-student community, and Baltimore responds with laws that do not even give alleged perpetrators their Constitutional right "to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation[.]"

The tactics of the Baltimore police department, of building secret files of complaints against noisemakers, are an affront to all of those who try to live within the bounds of the law. This policy allows those with personal conflicts with their neighbors to use the police as a tool for personal revenge. No one will dispute that those who are unduly affected by consistently disruptive neighbors are entitled to a legal recourse. However, the easiest way to prevent noisiness is by letting the offender know there is a problem. A stronger emphasis on mediation would likely solve many of these problems. Students do not come home at night plotting to disturb their neighbors, and amicably discussing the problem would likely solve the problem in most cases. Mediation could strengthen the ties between Hopkins and the community, help Charles Village residents get the peace they need, and keep students from being punished unnecessarily. The policy as it stands wastes police time with extra formal complaints over noise, and only serves to increase the divide between students and the rest of the community. We must all wonder if we are on the verge of eviction for crimes we did not knowingly commit. In the end, everyone loses.

Editorial Observer: Leah Mainiero

Hopkins life can be tough. Homework cripples our social lives and school spirit and we suffer from recurring bouts of grade deflation. On-campus food is average at its best. The pool hours are weird. Our TAs don't speak English. It's impossible to find an open desk on M-Level and the chances of classes being cancelled again — despite a paralyzing two inches of Baltimore snow — have dropped from 90 to non-existent with the inauguration of our Canadian, blizzard-conditioned president.

We've all poked fun at, complained about, or just plain ranted about the challenges we face at Hopkins. In fact, this editorial page's very existence is based on the unfortunate acknowledgement that we as students will always be faced with messy situations. Many of us face more serious dilemmas than the ones mentioned above; by selectively breaking down our Hopkins experiences, we can find plenty of inconveniences to complain about.

Thanksgiving break is fast-approaching and we say we could use a break from the wear and tear of our agonizing Hopkins lives. But Thanksgiving isn't just an excuse to escape. The reason for the holiday, we've all been told, is to give thanks for all that we have. And if we step

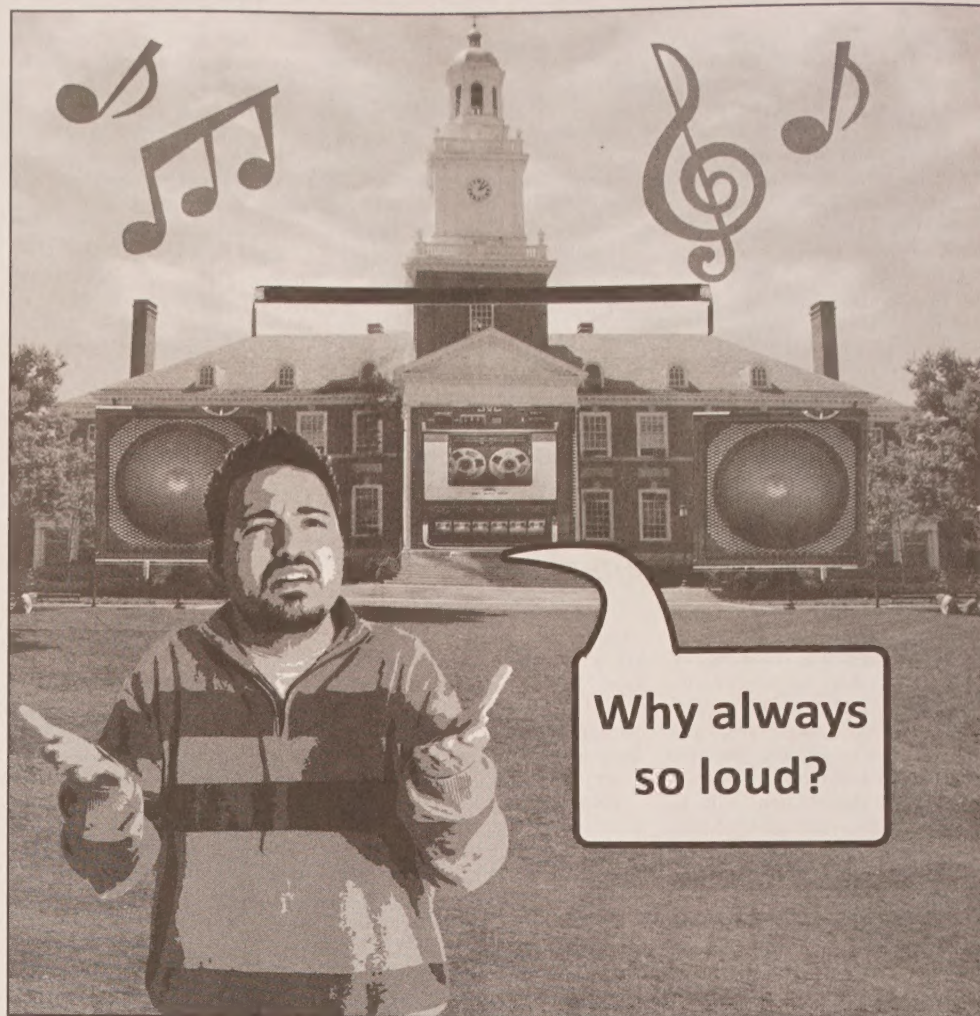
back and enlarge our tunnel vision for a moment, we realize that we do, in fact, have a lot to be thankful for.

Let's be thankful that we attend one of the most elite institutions in America. We have access to a gorgeous campus and to brilliant (if not always English-speaking) faculty. We can study whatever we choose and amazing opportunities open up to us every day. Career counseling prepares us for successful careers in any number of fields. We live next to the political center of our powerful nation with extensive rights and freedoms.

Big picture: life at Hopkins is good.

When we are sitting with our relatives and friends on Thanksgiving and they ask us how we like Hopkins, we can complain about our neurotic roommates or the quality of the food. Or, instead we can recognize that we have a world of possibilities ahead of us — possibilities that we can use to make a positive impact in the world. We are privileged to be able to attend a school like Hopkins and many people would give up a lot just to be in our positions. So Hopkins, despite your over-crowded library and overly-stressed students, we are very thankful to be here.

Anne Faber



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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or emailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the News-Letter and can not be returned. The News-Letter reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The News-Letter reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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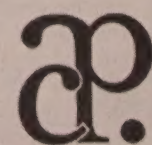
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Mailing Address:

Levering Suite 102
The Johns Hopkins University
3400 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

Main Phone Number: (410) 516-6000
Business/Advertising: (443) 844-7913
Fax Number: (410) 516-6565
E-mail: News.Letter@jhu.edu
<http://www.jhunewsletter.com>



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OPINIONS

Reassessing How We Look at Foreign Aid

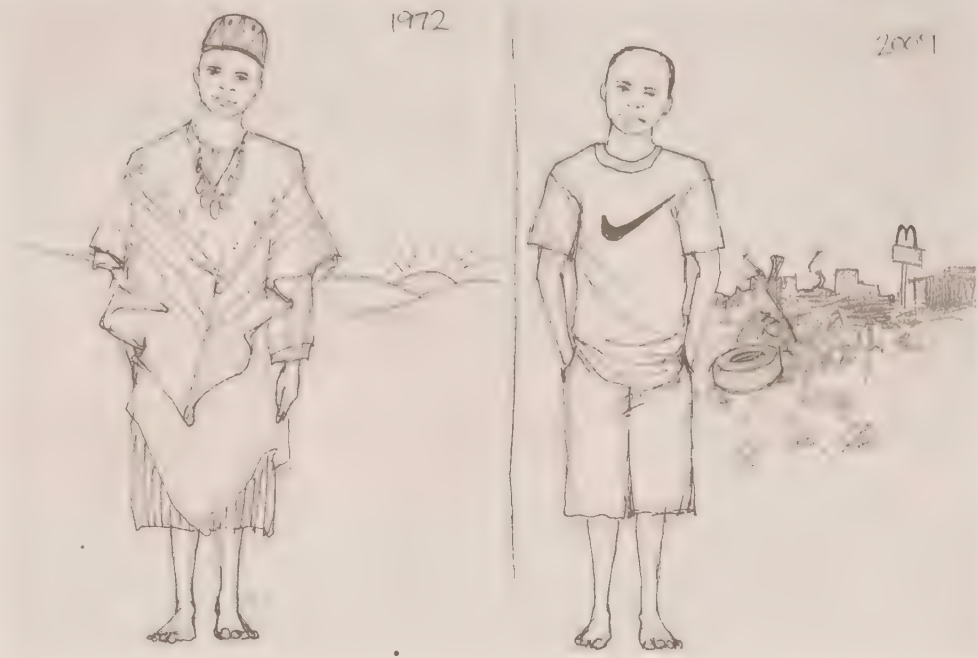
By LOGAN QUINN

The current mode of foreign aid is broken. On almost every level, we have consistently failed the people we claim to be trying to help. This is partially due to mismanagement and inherent flaws in the system, but it is mostly due to our own inability to adequately address the complexities of the problems facing the developing world and to seek solutions compatible with the unique situations in these states.

William Easterly, in his book *White Man's Burden*, points out that we (the West) have given more than \$300 billion in foreign aid in the last 20 or so years, and yet we have failed to achieve any measurable results. \$300 billion and we have not been able to end the spread of malaria in children in Africa. \$300 billion and we cannot get these kids beds nets. \$300 billion and we cannot guarantee immunizations will be in stock when Malawian mothers make a 20-mile trek to the nearest hospital. And so they have to come back another day with their children on their backs because they are too sick to walk. \$300 billion and we are no closer to eliminating poverty in the developing world.

The reason this is true is that a large portion of foreign aid is aimed at economic development and not necessarily at the specific problems afflicting these people. Foreign aid proponents venerate the classical model of economic progression when the environment that allowed the early industrializers to develop no longer exists. The international community is highly critical of the exploitation of a laboring class and regulatory agencies will not permit coun-

Logan Quinn is a senior public health and political science major from Honolulu, HI. He is the opinions editor of the News-Letter.



AVA YAP/GRAPHICS STAFF

tries to foster infrastructural growth by hiding behind high protective tariffs. The notion that economic development will occur in the same way as it did more than 200 years ago, and believing that economic progression follows a single spectrum, ignores the differences between the West and the developing world. Additionally, I feel compelled to ask how we are so presumptuous to assume that we can end poverty 3,000 miles away when we cannot eliminate poverty within our own borders?

I am not against helping people in need. I believe the West should have a role in the

developing world, just not the one to which we currently ascribe. We need to focus our efforts on promoting and protecting basic human rights without following an archaic model of economic growth and development. We need sweeping changes. We need a complete re-evaluation of the problem. We need to stop using tried and untrue methods when addressing the priorities of foreign aid. Right now a large portion of or foreign aid endowment is focused in pushing our own political agenda and securing our own interests and not in alleviating the oppressive burden of poverty in these areas.

we think. But the dark truth of foreign aid is that it seems to accomplish none of these things and instead engenders a belief that the people we send aid to are somehow less human than we are here in the developed world. Most of our aid is politically-driven. The naïve donations of private citizens do not help alleviate the conditions of the poor and abject citizens of the developing world, but instead only really help the donors sleep more soundly at night. \$300 billion and we have accomplished nothing. So maybe its time to change the way we think foreign aid works, or rather doesn't.

The Real Problem with Stupak-Pitts

I'm not a fan of the abortion debate. I find it to be a worthless and polarizing scream-fest that diverts attention away from the source of the problem (failed sex-education programs, access to contraception) and toward the consequence (unwanted pregnancy). My stance is simple: if you wish to solve the problem, address the source.

Steve Iannelli

Consequently, my grievance with the Stupak-Pitts Amendment of the House's health care bill lies not in the moral dilemma of abortion, but in the amendment's place in our government; Stupak-Pitts is a violation of the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, and furthermore represents the codification of principles supported by a morally questionable institution: the Catholic Church.

The Friday before The Affordable Health Care for America Act passed the House, representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) along with several "faith-based advocacy groups" met with House Democrats to pressure a vote on an amendment which would limit private health insurance companies from participating in the government exchange if they provided funding for abortions. Needless to say, the Democrats yielded and allowed the vote to take place, thus inserting the Stupak-Pitts Amendment into the health care bill and passing it through the final vote.

Gordon D. Newby, professor of Jewish, Islamic and Comparative Studies at Emory University, articulated the issue

in a recent article when she wrote, "The recently passed House health care bill might be paving the way to enact religious discrimination into law; on the important and fundamental issues of life and health, many religious Americans will be unable to live and act according to their own religious consciences and beliefs[.]" As Professor Newby said, the passage of the Stupak-Pitts Amendment by the House represents a placement of Catholic authority above the religious freedom of Americans who do not share the Church's view of abortion — and there are plenty of religions whose followers fall into this category.

Judaism says that a fetus is not a person until 'the head leaves the womb' and permits abortions to save the mother's life; with the exception of a few Orthodox authorities, the religion supports reproductive rights for women.

Sunni Islam believes that a fetus takes its soul 4 months after conception, and permits abortion up to that point. Many Muslim jurists will also allow abortion after "ensoulment" in cases where the mother's life is at risk.

Buddhists, with the exception of Tibetan Buddhists, hold a very open view on abortion, although the Dalai Lama himself said that, "Abortion should be approved or disapproved according to each circumstance. Hindus, although believing that the destruction of a fetus prevents its soul from participating on its karmic journey, often find abortion permissible to save the mother's life."

There is little doubt that the Christian religion was a major factor in drafting and passing this amendment. Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), a Catholic, spent the Friday before the vote discussing the issue with Washington's former archbishop, now a cardinal in Rome, and spent the evening negotiating with representatives from the USCCB in her Capitol suite. Bart Stupak, co-author of the amendment, rents a room at the C St. House run by The Family, a Christian organization known for its fundamentalist and radically distorted view of Jesus Christ. Joseph Pitts, the other co-author, is the chairman of the Values Action Team, a conservative group which is closely tied to the Christian right. Henry Waxman, speaking about the USCCB involvement in the health care debate, said, "I would like the bishops, who as I understand it want a bill, to help us work out a plan where we don't have winners and losers."

Pardon me, Congress, but since when does the Catholic Church get to assist in 'working out a plan' that affects the health care and reproductive rights of a country that is only 22 percent Catholic?

I hold a strong contempt for the Catholic Church. Besides being known for such Christ-like acts as banning children's books, covering up sex abuse scandals, furthering the AIDS problem in Africa and funding

massive anti-gay rights campaigns, it has a rather long history of promoting the subjugation of women, most noticeable in its patriarchal system of leadership.

So why — after all of the scandal and shame to which the Catholic Church has knowingly subjected itself — would House Democrats consider its advice relevant in a debate about women's rights? About *anyone's* rights?

The United States is not a theocracy. Before even free speech, the First Amend-

For the House to allow Catholic bishops *any* authority on policy making is positively absurd and completely inexcusable.

ment explicitly states that, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof . . ." For the House to allow Catholic bishops *any* authority on policy making — especially on an

issue so divisive in American political debate — is positively absurd and completely inexcusable. This country was founded on religious freedom, and there is no reason why a single church's doctrine should take precedence in public policy. The government has allowed the leadership of an organization which permits neither women nor sexual activity among its ranks to legislate on reproductive rights of millions of non-Catholic women.

One nation, under who's god?

Steve Iannelli is a student from Haddon Heights, NJ, and is majoring in chemical engineering.

Obama vs. the Honduran Constitution

Conservatives tend to dislike Obama for his domestic policies. He prefers bigger government, claiming a larger chunk of Americans' paychecks in exchange for more "services." His critics use terms such as "meddling" and "interfering" to describe such policies. Despite this opposition, Obama has had some success with getting these policies implemented. Unfortunately, he seems to have decided to, "take the show on the road," so to speak.

On June 28, 2009, Honduran President Manuel Zelaya was arrested and removed from office. His allies have termed this a military coup d'état, intending to delegitimize transfer of power. However, this was no such thing. Zelaya was arrested on orders from the Honduran Supreme Court. Zelaya had been campaigning for changes to the Honduran constitution (and expected to seek an end to term limits) via referendum, an unconstitutional course of action in Honduras. When a lower court issued an injunction against Zelaya, he ignored it. In accordance with Honduran law, the Supreme Court ordered his arrest.

Neil Albstein is a senior political science major from New York, N.Y. He is the co-editor-at-large for the News-Letter.

The job of arresting the President was assigned to the military, which over-zealously expelled him from Honduras. This act was not ordered by the Supreme Court, and has been denounced by the new Honduran President. The Honduran Supreme Court has agreed to hear a lawsuit against the military for the exile. However, the Supreme Court and Honduran National Congress, largely filled with members of Zelaya's own party, have upheld the constitutionality of the transfer of power to current President Roberto Micheletti.

Zelaya, an ally of power-hungry Socialist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, was widely believed to have been attempting to reshape the Honduran government with Venezuela's domineering socialism as a model. Chavez seized his power through a series of constitutional referenda, a process very similar to the one Zelaya attempted before his removal.

An uninformed international community widely condemned Honduras. President Obama was a vocal supporter of Zelaya and threatened not to recognize the result of the upcoming election, if Zelaya were not first returned to power. Eventually, Honduras relented and agreed to allow Zelaya to return to power through the end of his term in January and for the elections to proceed as planned, as part

of a complex deal brokered by the United States, which now supports the elections.

Zelaya, however, now refuses to acknowledge the validity of the elections, despite earlier protestations that he had no intention of serving beyond his current term. This alteration leaves Obama with egg on his face. He has challenged the basic right of Hondurans to have their own constitution and enforce their own laws. He has backed a man with close ties to Hugo Chavez, best known for his bitter anti-U.S. stance. And he has been repaid by having the man he backed reverse course, anti-democratically refusing to acknowledge the elections that must remove him from office.

How can any other nation continue to trust Obama? What prevents him from refusing to recognize any leader with whom he disagrees? It is true that the United States is the most powerful nation on Earth, but that power is as a world leader, not as a dictator. A world leader does not have the right to violate another nation's sovereignty, denying the nation its right to make and enforce its own laws on its own territory. Why should any nation participate in a deal he brokers? He brokered a deal between his favored party, Zelaya, and a disfavored party, the Hondu-

ran government led by Micheletti, only to see his favored party back out. An enemy will not hold up its end of a bargain, if the broker's ally refuses his own responsibilities.

The situation in Honduras could have ramifications elsewhere. Obama finds himself alone at the negotiation table with regards to the situation in Israel. Can Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu trust Obama not to simply reject his regime, if he continues to stand firm on the issue of settlements? If Obama will not recognize Honduran sovereignty, why should Israel expect any better? And what if the United Kingdom were to dare to have a rule unacceptable to our President?

As Obama proudly boasted to cheering Germans while ostensibly campaigning for the United States' Presidency, he views himself as "a citizen of the world." Unfortunately, he seems to believe his election was to the position of "President of the World." Mr. President, your own country has enough problems. You have enough on your plate trying to understand them. You clearly do not understand the problems of other nations. Please stop trying to fix them, while we still have some allies left.

Neil Albstein

Don't Hate on Tucker Too Much

By MAC SCHWERIN

I grew up in a family of four; arguments were common. As children, most of us — especially those of us who come from large families — had to fight hard for attention. We had to utilize all of the tools at our limited disposal. Among these was the pure, unadulterated power of volume: we discovered at an early age that it was possible to win arguments by virtue of being the only kid left screaming. Sheer loudness represented the blunt force of a stubborn opinion; endurance succeeded over elegance. Caution, nuance, shade — these elements merely undermined the strength of our beliefs, tripping us up while other, louder voices crowded in. The results literally spoke for themselves. If you wanted to say something, you had to yell it.

Last week made clear to me that after 15 years not much has changed. Granted, we don't yell in quite the same way — the methods with which people peddle their dogmatic attitudes have evolved, grown subtler. Instead of commanding the loudest voice we try to adopt the most cajoling, the least forgiving, the easiest to sell. But the basic principle remains: the last person standing can dictate the terms of discussion.

What bothered me most about Tucker Max's visit to Hopkins was not the hostility that he met but the hostility that I met, and the HOP met, and many of my peers met — essentially anyone who wanted to hear this guy talk. I have no interest in defending Max as an entertainer or a decent human being. On that front, I think the consensus has been delivered, the conversation has moved on, and who cares, anyway? Tucker Max is no more or less than some harsh words on a page or at a podium. What we're really talking about is the perceived notion that some fundamental atrocity has been committed here; that the propagation of misogyny was given direct or indirect clearance on our campus. Last week a group of protestors, spearheaded by a few domineering students, made the case that it was, and that (through attendance or apathy) we were all complicit, and that we should be ashamed. They made a lot of noise but I'm not sure the argument was won.

One of their assertions held that, by paying Max to visit, the school effectively endorsed the content of his speech. This is patently ridiculous. Hopkins hires many political figures from both sides of the spectrum — we wouldn't suggest that in doing so the school is supporting their respective views. The most you could say with regard to Max is that Hopkins provided a platform for his hate speech. But this is a misleading statement as well. Though the administration's predictable and reactionary response to the student outcry was tinged with an unfortunate quality of pandering, of playing-it-safe, they at least clarified their obligations vis-a-vis free speech. Hopkins does not censor. It was the HOP's decision to hire Max, and the administration gives such organizations the freedom to invite whom they please. Far more than controversy would be at stake if this policy were reversed.

So should we hold the HOP accountable for this heinous misjudgment? As far as I'm concerned they fulfilled their purpose, as well: they got asses into seats. Would-be attendants actually had to be turned away. I don't know how often that happens, but my guess is not very. Obviously, an organization like the HOP, which subsidizes its events with student tuition, must be wary of divisiveness, but this merely raises more ambiguous issues. Can the students who headed the protest speak for all women on campus? Decidedly not. Although women as a demographic have endured a history of subjugation and prejudice similar to ethnic or racial minorities, the groups are not analogous in every respect. For one thing, women do not constitute a minority. This is not a trivial point. The fact is that women make up a demographic too large to be spoken for by a select few, and I talked with many female students who rejected the protesters' agenda on these grounds. They had found nothing terribly offensive about Max's book and looked forward to seeing him speak. But they felt marginalized and shamed by the most aggressive of the protestors, who condescended to them as if they couldn't understand the larger picture, as though their enthusiasm engendered a self-defeating stance. That an individual should be made to feel that he/she has in some way harmed his/her own cause is more than unfair: it's downright malicious.

And, at the end of the day, we have to wonder whether Max is actually doing more harm than the edgy comedian with an obvious, marketable shtick. Could the efforts of the protestors have been channeled into more effective avenues? The House of Representatives has recently amended its health bill to suspend government subsidies for abortion procedures. Tucker Max versus the future of our national health care: which do you think poses the larger worry?

Mac Schwerin is a junior Writing Seminars major from Oyster Bay, N.Y.

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Interested in writing for
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter?

Checklist:

- ☐ Friends think you know too much about this school
- ☐ You spotted any of the typos we left in the paper this week (on purpose, of course - we only did that in order to catch your eye)
- ☐ You have so much insomnia you don't know what to do with it
- ☐ Eager to ask the tough questions of Mary Pat Clarke, Susan Boswell and the SGA
- ☐ Would enjoy working in historical buildings for an award-winning newspaper

We are looking for people who are interested in photography, graphic design, copy reading and Web design, as well as writing for the News & Features, Opinions, Arts, Science, and Your Weekend sections



We also have positions open for *The Underground* (the magazine), dining column, fitness columnist and more!

E-mail us at chiefs@jhunewsletter.com or join us in our office at the corner of N. Charles St. and Art Museum Drive!

THE B SECTION

First Edition: Thanksgiving
News-Letter

Your Weekend • Arts & Entertainment • Cartoons • Science & Technology • Sports

NOVEMBER 19, 2009

M. & W. SOCCER ADVANCE TO SWEET SIXTEEN

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BEST WEEKENDER



Roller Girls



Vocal Chords

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Oyster Festival

YOUR WEEKEND Nov. 19 - 22

Baltimore Events

Thursday

JHU Film Society *Rebellious Youth Series*
7:30 p.m.
Mergenthaler 111
This week's movie: *Repo Man*



COURTESY OF THEEXPIREDMETER.COM

Alpha Phi-esta

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

AMR 1 MPR

Celebrate a Mexican Alpha Phi-esta with the sisters.

Movie Night with Kappa Kappa Gamma

8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

AMR 1 MPR

Watch the movie *Clueless* with the sisters of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Food and beverages will be provided and pajamas are encouraged.

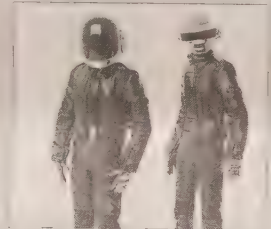
Vocal Chords Fall Concert

8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Bloomberg Auditorium

Featuring a varied set list of new songs and old, choral to R&B, with some aeronautic skit shenanigans.

Friday



COURTESY OF CROWNOZER.COM

DJ Wars / Rave

7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Glass Pavilion

DJ competition. Contestants include Jai L, Luckystrike (Ryan Decker), Golgi Apparatus (Ishan Dasgupta) and Fishfood (Alec Fisher). Tickets \$5, presented by AKPsi.

Men's Basketball

7 p.m.

Goldfarb Gym

Hopkins vs. Stevenson.

Saturday

Nritya Mala 2009

6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Shriver Auditorium

Hopkins Shakti presents this collection of performances of the classical Indian arts by college dance and music teams from University of North Carolina, Rutgers University, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania and Hopkins. All ticket sales go to the charity Child Rights and You (CRY) America.

JHU All-Nighter's Fall Concert

8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Bloomberg Auditorium

This all men's a capella group performs song selections from The Fray, Maroon 5, The Killers, The Beatles and many more.

Sunday

Interfaith Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner

6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Glass Pavilion

Free dinner and all are welcome. There will be a performance by Adoremus. Sponsored by Hopkins Catholic Community with the help of MSA, HCF, RUF, Bah'ai, JSA and Sikh!

Hopkins Symphony Chamber Orchestra Concert

3 p.m.

Shriver Hall

Vladimi Lande conducts Respighi Ancient Airs & Dances, Suite III. Shostakovich String Quartet No. 8. Also works by Prokofiev, Brahms and Borodin.

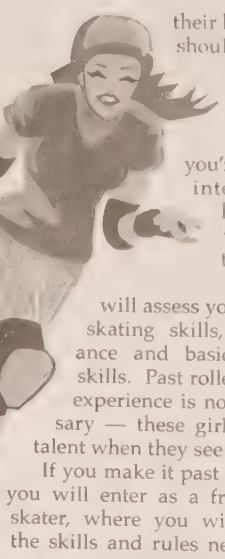
Charm City Roller Girls Try-outs

Can you roller skate 23 laps in five minutes? Take hits and recover from falls? Are you a fiercely competitive, aggressive athlete? Are you a woman?

Baltimore's only all-women roller derby team, The Charm City Roller Girls, is holding try-outs on Nov. 21.

For those unfamiliar with the sport, roller derby is a fast-paced, full contact sport. Each team skates around a track in a tight formation, as one member of each team (the designated jammer) tries to lap the opposing team's pack.

In order to block the opponent's jammer, the pack can use



their hips and shoulders to push them away.

If you're still interested, here are the details.

Judges will assess your basic skating skills, endurance and basic derby skills. Past roller derby experience is not necessary — these girls know talent when they see it.

If you make it past try-outs you will enter as a freshman skater, where you will learn the skills and rules necessary to compete.

Tryouts start at 10:30 a.m. at Skateland Northpoint. Skateland is located at 1113 Old Northpoint Rd, Dundalk, MD, 21222.

Helmet, elbow pads, knee pads, wrist guards and mouth guard are required, but skates are available for rental. Be sure to bring a \$10 rink fee and leave your prim-and-proper side at home.

— Stephanie Mezyk



COURTESY OF BALTIMORE.ORG

Maryland Oyster and Beer Festival

This is going to take you out of your comfort zone a.k.a. the Hopkins bubble and the Towson Mall. However, it will be worth it.

For a measly \$55 you can enjoy an intoxicating and arousing good time at the Timonium Fair Grounds on Friday, Nov. 20.

From 6 to 10 p.m., the good folks hosting the Chesapeake Oyster and Beer Festival will be slinging beer steins and shucking oysters from the local area.

Now, I know. Oysters. Ew. Well suck it up, literally. Once you get past the fact that you are ingesting the still dying remains of a mollusk, you'll realize just how tasty those little buggers are. Then you add that whole alcohol thing into the mix and you have a guaranteed rockin' good time.

So grab your girlfriend and your "real" ID and go slurp and gulp some quality shellfish. They'll be serving pit beef as well just in case you just can't stand bivalves.

— Michael Ferrante



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Concerts

Sonar

Thursday

Talking Head Club at 8:30 p.m.; Valient Thorr • Red Fang • The Mishaps

Friday

Main Stage at 8 p.m.: The Jesus Lizard • Animal Hospital • Double Dagger

Club Stage at 7 p.m.: 98 Rock presents Flyleaf • Paper Tongues

Saturday

Main Stage at 7 p.m.: Mavericks Live 2009 Featuring Matisyahu • Trevor Hall

Ottobar

Friday

Doors open at 9, show 9:30 p.m.: MC Chris • Whole Wheat Bread • I Fight Dragons

Saturday

Doors open at 9, show 9:30 p.m.: Melt Banana • DD/MM/YYY • Dope Body • Dry Season

First Mariner

Friday

Show at 7:30 p.m.: Bruce Springsteen

Vocal Chords

Pack your bags for a musical journey with The Vocal Chords, Hopkins' "friendly, neighborhood a capella group."

They've sung for the Baltimore Orioles, they've sung for President Daniels and now they'll sing for everyone who shows up to their annual concert.

Acapellair takes off this Thursday night at 8 p.m. in Bloomberg. Admission (and candy) are free for all. Expect some fan favorites, like the dance-inducing Lauryn Hill medley, as well as some new toe-tapping numbers.

The Vocal Chords are known for their diverse musical tastes and stage antics. Past repertoires

have ranged from Beatles favorites to Michael Bublé, from choral to R&B. Additionally, Acapellair goes above and beyond plain-old a capella. The Vocal Chords have prepared some aeronautic skits for additional in-flight entertainment.

Still not convinced? Visit www.jhu.edu/~vchords/home/ and listen to some of the group's recordings. With three albums under their belt, the Vocal Chords combine professional quality with light-hearted fun.

The flight of the Vocal Chords is expected to end at 10 p.m. Be sure to pack a night's worth of applause.

— Stephanie Mezyk

Crispin Glover at the Charles Theatre

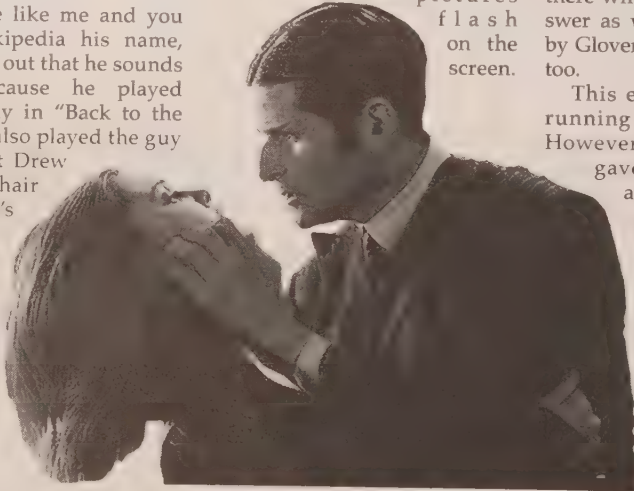
I'm going to say a name and you are going to think, "huh?" Crispin Glover. (Now you go, "huh?") Crispin Glover is an actor and director. Apparently his middle name is Hellion.

If you are like me and you have to wikipedia his name, you will find out that he sounds familiar because he played George McFly in "Back to the Future." He also played the guy who rips out Drew Barrymore's hair in "Charlie's Angels" and "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle."

At the moment he is touring the country and screening his film,

It is fine. EVERYTHING IS FINE! Yes, those caps are serious.

He is also performing what he calls, his Big Slide Show, in which he narrates eight books as pictures flash on the screen.



During this tour he will be at the Charles Theatre. His appearance is a one night only affair at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 19.

After the movie screening, there will be a question and answer as well as a book signing by Glover. Oh yeah, he's a writer too.

This event is rather pricey, running at a cool Jackson. However, Rotten Tomatoes gave the film 80 percent, and you can't really put a price on the look on his face when you get to say to him, "You are amazing. I love your work so much. Do you think you could give me Cameron Diaz's number?"

— Michael Ferrante

Fantasizing in the Era of Edward Cullen and New Moon

I have a confession to make. As many of you may know, the film version of *New Moon*, the second volume in the *Twilight* saga, is due to hit the big screen next week. As a result, the cast and crew of this epic adventure are working tirelessly to promote the film, taking interviews, having press conferences and meeting with hoards of obsessed fans, many of whom are 14-year-old girls, but not all.

As of last Tuesday, I myself am among the small minority in the latter category. I waited outside of a hotel for several hours to catch a glimpse of Robert Pattinson (who is the most symmetrical human being I have ever seen) and Kristen Stewart.

As Henri (the terse but amicable security guard sent to patrol my corner of the barricade) paced around keeping the screaming 14-year-olds in check, more accredited members of the press than

myself strolled around, and interviewed the crowd. It then struck me how crazy it all was. These girls didn't even speak English: They called Robert "Row-Bearrr" as they screeched for him to appear in the window. Yet, they all knew who he was, and, thanks to Steph Meyer, were convinced that he was the one meant to carry them away from the boredom and ineptitude of their humdrum lives.

Then again, it's not that absurd, considering everyone has had a fantasy like this at one point or another. I think we forget, in our big grown up worlds, how important fantasy is.

We are all exposed to the same popular culture and we all partake in similar fantasies. What should be one of the most private areas of our consciousness is suddenly as open as an N* Sync Reunion Tour chat room. Our fantasies become dry and average. Yet they are still just as important as

they were when we were kids.

You may be asking, "What's so bad about reality?" To which I would answer: nothing. The truth is that most people need to escape in order to unwind. Everybody does it differently, whether it be through a fantasy baseball team, a *Guitar Hero* obsession, mind altering drugs, exercise, reading or simply just zoning out in the middle of class. It's not that our lives are unbearable, it's just that they are extremely public because everyone is so plugged into each other all the time.

We need to retreat into ourselves in order to find some peace. We forget how important it is to take time for ourselves and to relax. Not to mention that the notion of fantasy is plagued by negative, often sexual, connotations which shade the concept as "weird," "immature" or "perverse" and make us reluctant to explore that side of ourselves.

Fame and fantasy have an interesting relationship. Fame creates the fantasy that we are somehow close with people we have never met. We experience this on a daily basis. It's the same way we feel about a beloved professor we had in a 300-person lecture.

I think actors in particular have an interesting job because fans are obsessed with their characters, not with them, yet the industry promoting their films pressures them to perpetuate the illusion that the two identities are one and the same by. Why? Because if the fantasy is more real, more people will adopt it and more people will buy merchandise related to the movie or television show.

When Robert Pattinson walked out of that hotel, he looked like he was about to sh-t himself. It's hard to blame him.

Everywhere he goes, crowds of shrieking strangers appear who all want a piece of him. It almost makes you feel

bad for the guy (or it would if he weren't so symmetrical). But in a way it's heartening. Statistically speaking, one in every two girls from that crowd came from a home with divorced parents. One in every eight would have had some kind of domestic abuse by the age of 14. Yet they were all there, believing in love, in prince charming. And if a regular guy can make those statistics a fantasy by manifesting the idea of Edward Cullen, well then, that's kind of cool.



COURTESY OF WWW.SODAHEAD.COM

New Moon opens nationwide on Friday.

Campus Events

Thursday

Corradetti Glass Studio Holiday Open House
5 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Corradetti Glass Studio
Glass blowing demonstrations (they're making glass-tinis) from Woodberry Kitchen, along with food and local wine.

Friday

Chesapeake Oyster and Beer Festival
Maryland State Fairgrounds
6 p.m. to 10 p.m.



COURTESY OF OREGONSTATE.EDU

This is an "all-you-can-eat extravaganza" featuring thousands of oysters, 10 different kinds from all over the world served by 10 local restaurants. The following beers will be available: Clipper City and Heavy Seas, Guinness and 250, Harp, Smithwicks, Magic Hat, Lancaster Brewing Co, McSorleys, Dogfish Head, Saranac, Sierra Nevada, Pyramid Brewing and more. See www.beerandoyster.com for more information.

Jewelry Fair

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (also Saturday)
The Walter's Art Museum, 600 N. Charles Street

This exhibit by the Walters featuring a jewelry fashion show, talks with twenty of the country's most esteemed jewelers, and an opening night cocktail party.

Chalk Talk

11:30 a.m.

ESPN Zone, Inner Harbor, 601 E. Pratt Street

Listen to professional commentators discuss last week's Raven's game and their tactics as well as preview next Sunday's showdown.

Saturday

Charm City Roller Girls Try-Outs

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Skateland Northpoint, 111 Old Northpoint Road

Helmet, elbow and knee pads required to tryout for this all-ladies Roller Derby Team (charmcityrollergirls.com)



COURTESY OF ADSNEEZE.COM

MARNA Nudist Indoor Swim

6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Location TBA

It's that time of the month again. Call Maryland Area Naturalist Association at (410) 949-5391 to sign up for this family-friendly nude swim.

Sunday

Analog 2009

7 p.m. to 10 p.m. (ongoing until Jan. 31)

Rocket to Venus, 3360 Chestnut Ave. An exhibit of Sam Holden's hand-developed photography. Prints will be available for sale.

NFL Football

1 p.m. Kickoff

M&T Bank Stadium

The Ravens take on the Colts at M&T.

Free Flea

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Ottobar, 2549 N. Charles Street

The Ottobar wants you and everyone else to come and set up shop. They have no idea what will be sold.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Hopkins alumni present inspiring *Boy Scout* documentary *Matisyahu*

By **RACHEL GREENBERG**
Staff Writer

"Living in Baltimore was one of the reasons I wanted to make this film," said co-director Justin Szlasa of *759: Boy Scouts of Harlem*, his new film.

"I was really upset about what I saw in large parts of Baltimore in terms of lack of opportunity and terrible crime. Ultimately, in order to really affect change, a good approach is through grass roots community organizations."

In their film, Szlasa and co-director Jake Boritt — both Hopkins alums — explore the workings of an inner-city Boy Scout troop with special attention given to Keith Dozier, an eleven year old "tenderfoot," or new Scout. The film is an endearing look at Scouting and the influence it can have on the lives of boys and young men.

It begins with iconic shots of Harlem: a gospel choir, a homeless man on a street corner, a group of girls playing jump-rope. In the background, a gospel soloist sings a free-form melody.

The directors had originally begun the movie with news clips from a shooting that took place in Harlem at the time of the movie's production. The victims of the shooting were eight young men at the same ages of the boys in

the film.

This footage was scrapped because it "was dishonest and forced a stereotype" on people who were not engaged with that lifestyle, Boritt said.

As it is, the gospel music makes the introduction seem oddly foreboding and does not convey the tone of the rest of the film.

The main cast of the film is Troop 759 and its leaders. The scouts are comprised of Devon, the oldest, KC and Mani, both 14, and Keith.

They are led by Scoutmaster Sowah, an elderly man originally from Ghana, and Assistant Scoutmaster Ms. Anne, Keith's grandmother. With focus on Keith, the trials and adventures of Boy Scouting at Camp Keowa are shown.

Their first obstacle is the swimming test, which Keith fails. Devon and Mani are both classified as beginners, while KC passes. This scene is filled with many charmingly genuine images of life as a pre-teen boy. Mani says he failed his test because he choked on his retainer.

While at camp, the boys try target shooting, basket weaving, rock climbing and many other



COURTESY OF JUSTIN SZLASA

Szlasa and Boritt's documentary depicts Boy Scout troop 759 and its influence on Harlem youth.

activities. At times these scenes of camp life feel cluttered and unplanned.

The polar bear swim is shown without any explanation of what this bizarre ritual entails. While this experience of an early morning frigid swim is familiar to any former Scout, others are left confused.

The point of these scenes, though, is to introduce outsiders to these rituals, and to give former Scouts moments of nostalgia.

The film asks people to reconsider their notions of Scouting. While the directors both note that they do not mean to be advertising Boy Scouts, it is clear that they focus on people who are, as Szlasa said, "objectively cool."

As Boritt has noted, most people hold associations with the Boy Scouts of "mostly very white bread people, suburban and small-town, involving Rockwell. They picture a boy with long socks, shorts, and his cap."

While they don't mean to necessarily dispel these associations, they do mean to expand them by showing that, as camp counselor Andy Cabrera says, "you come here and it changes everything, it

blows your mind."

For former Scouts, like director Szlasa, seeing the boys go through these experiences provides a point of commonality. All Scouts can see a part of themselves in these shared experiences of adolescence and maturation. For those outside this culture, it is a look at what these experiences mean.

Some of the most valuable moments of the movie, however, have little to do with the actual camp itself. The audience responded most strongly to moments involving two young Serbian women, Anna and Maria, working in the kitchens.

These women with their friendly smiles and welcoming words have clearly enchanted the campers. Anna and Maria say that some of the campers "made hearts from food for us" and also "with beans they made the words 'I love you' — It's nice."

The point is driven home when KC says, somewhat uncomfortably, "Both are Russian, both are hot." This is a moment that is familiar not only to Scouts, but for anyone who has ever been or ever known a pre-teen boy.

In terms of social commen-

tary, most of the greatest moments again occur outside of the context of the camp. In one scene, Keith's aunts, many of whom are involved with Scouting, remark on the lack of male figures in the lives of these young men.

The women praise Mr. Sowah for "trying to nurture a lot of these boys who don't have a father at home." This is a theme that repeats itself throughout the film.

It is clear that the filmmakers and the people involved with Scouting see the Scouts as a source of positive male role models for young men. At the same time, they recognize that these substitute role models become necessary because the boys' fathers are often not present in their lives.

The greatest success of *759: Boy Scouts of Harlem* is its subtlety. The filmmakers have no objection to representing an institution that is innocent and friendly as just that.

They make no efforts to dramatize the issues, and because of this they may have lost some commercial appeal. The film has had trouble getting coverage or air time, though it will be aired on PBS in May 2010. Until then, the trailer is available at www.harlemscouts.com.

Both filmmakers speak fondly of their experiences at Hopkins. Boritt was a Writing Seminars major, and Szlasa was an International Relations major. Both praise the aid given to them by Writing Seminars Professor Tristan Davies, as well as the resources made available by the Hopkins professional and alumni networks.

Boritt comments that at Hopkins, "they don't coddle the undergrads and you really have to do stuff to succeed there, but it benefits you to go through that."

Together, these directors have created a highly successful and unpretentious film that is a credit to their skills.

Matisyahu talks music and Jewish religion

By **CHRISTINA WARNER**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Matthew Paul Miller might be a name of no significance for many people, but shout out the name Matisyahu in a room and its very likely someone will recognize it (especially if anyone in the room is Jewish).

Miller, more widely recognized by his Hebrew and stage name Matisyahu, is a Jewish reggae artist who has been impressively evolving musically since he launched onto the music scene in 2004.

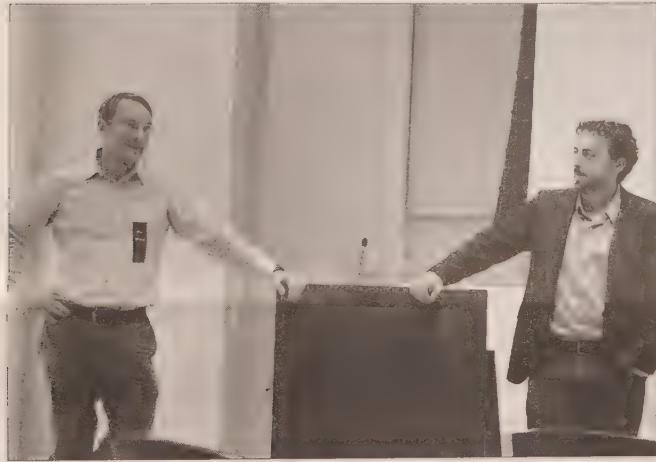
His first album *Shake of the Dust ... Arise* flew under the radar compared to 2006's *Youth* which helped catapult Matisyahu onto the reggae scene with his single "King Without a Crown." His songs have a strong Rasta sound — not surprising since most of his music can be grouped into the reggae genre — but it is the thematically Jewish content that sets it apart from others. Think a little bit Sublime, and a little bit Jew de Maccabi.

Recently, *The News-Letter* had a chance to talk with Matisyahu, who described his song writing process as a collaborative effort.

"I had different people that came in and worked with me in the studio, in the writing process. For example, one was Trevor Hall, who's a guitar player and he would come and start playing. He would play a guitar line and I would beatbox behind it and then start writing lyrics for it."

He also mentions beatboxing while others play the guitar, recording the jam session and then, he said, "we would go back and we would listen to what we did and we would find little sections

SEE MATISYAHU, PAGE B4



ELAINE YU/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Co-directors Szlasa and Boritt answer questions at the screening of *Boy Scouts*.

Woodies Awards celebrate college favorites

By **HSIA-TING CHANG**
Staff Writer

Just when you thought the drama was over, MTV rolls out yet another awards show — right on the heels of Taylor Swift's *Saturday Night Live* skit, which poked fun at the disastrous events of the VMAs. The Woodie Awards are an annual event in which college students vote for their favorite musicians.

The *News-Letter* was lucky enough to sit in on a conference call and get a little inside

scoop on the thoughts of artists 3OH!3, Asher Roth, Matt & Kim and Death Cab for Cutie.

Sean Foreman and Nathaniel Mott met in physics class while at the University of Colorado. Shortly after, 3OH!3 was born. Their single "Don't Trust Me" hit the radio stations this summer and went platinum. High energy and frenetic performers, the band has been nominated for this year's Performing Woodie, which honors those with the best and most memorable live performance.

The duo certainly proved their chops on this year's Warped Tour. "What we try to do at our shows is bring energy and go crazy every time we have a show, you know?" Mott said.

"We also try to have our shows be pretty inclusive things

so that its fun for everyone. You don't have to go to watch us play or whatever, it's more of an inclusive thing, and everyone's getting crazy together. The crowd whips us up into a frenzy and hopefully we do the same to the crowd."

Matt & Kim's male half discussed the making of their video for "Lessons Learned," in which both members calmly step out of a van in Times Square and proceed to remove their clothing, piece by piece, as the camera follows them.



COURTESY OF WWW.CULTURESPILL.COM

Woodie awards candidates Death Cab for Cutie recorded "Meet Me at the Equinox" specifically for the upcoming, much-anticipated sequel film, *Twilight: New Moon*.

Matt laughed as he recalled the circumstances under which they shot their music video.

"On our permit, we just wrote that it was a web promo video for Matt & Kim, Incorporated, and it was gonna be two tourists walking through Times Square dressed inappropriately for the weather," he said.

"Kim made me promise we wouldn't get arrested if we did

it." It's no wonder then that they've been nominated under the category of Best Video — public nudity often garners such popularity.

Asher Roth, who became famous among the college scene with his single "I Love College," is nominated for Woodie of the Year.

He's surprisingly — or not — relaxed on the phone, greeting each interviewer by name. Roth performed at last year's Woodie Awards as a virtual unknown, and has since gained a loyal

fan base. His first full-length album *Asleep in the Bread Aisle* dropped this spring. He has since toured with blink-182 on their summer reunion tour.

When asked how far he's come since last year, Roth replied, "It's been really fun. It's really been a journey. What we did to gain that following, I don't really know, but I think we just kinda, you know, loved college. I think a lot of people really loved college. But based off that, we're just having fun. And smiling a lot."

Last but not least was an interview with Chris Walla of Death Cab for Cutie fame. The band, at one point a solo project from frontman Benjamin Gibbard, has

SEE WOODIES, PAGE B5



DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Capoeira provided a break from dance routines as the performers showcased different levels of Brazilian martial arts mastery.

22nd annual Culture Show a successful evening

By **JANE SYH**
Staff Writer

When I walked into Shriver for the 2009 Culture Show and was handed a free glow stick at the door, I knew that the night was going to be awesome. And as it turns out, I was right. Oh boy, the glow sticks were just the beginning.

For two-and-a-half hours on Saturday night, the stage of Shriver Auditorium overflowed with brilliant performers, rocking beats and talented mayhem.

The structure of the show was pretty standard: the two emcees, Blake Edwards and William Fang, would entertain the crowd with some forced but witty banter. Then, a member of the group about to perform would then come onstage and explain to the audience the cultural significance of their piece. Cue the music, then repeat — but the performances themselves were phenomenal.

The show was kicked off by a group completely new to the Hopkins campus this year. Their introduction informed the crowd that three world-class contenders in Irish dance attend our university, all of whom were involved

in the group. Their technique, precision and the overall group performance were incredible to the point where words are not able to do them justice.

Other more traditional culturally-based groups included Shakti, the classical Indian dance team whose number was as dazzling as their costumes, and the Filipino Students Association, whose dances were impressive for their performers' coordination and exuberance, as well as their ability to balance candles on their head.

Also making an appearance was the Ethiopian Dance Troupe, with two couples performing a sweet, unique and sometimes even humorous dance.

The Chinese Lion Dance group entertained the crowd as three "lions" battled over the "sun," all the while being accompanied with music created by various cymbals and a drum.

The group had expanded their performance to include a skilled swordswoman attempting to stave off the attacking lions, which was a huge crowd pleaser. Though it was all wonderful, one could become more than a bit unsettled over the lions' enormous, glossy, blinking eyes.

Deviating a bit from the tradition-based dance numbers, groups also made performances that took that time-honored elements from their cultural background and fused them with modern themes.

JOSH found inspiration in the current craze for vampires instigated by *Twilight* and merged the subject matter with classical Indian dance moves, creating a number that was both distinctive and engaging.

Also performing were Temp d'Afrique, a dance troupe that employs modern and traditional African movements, and VIVAZ, which combines the American and the Caribbean culture into dance performances.

Both groups pumped up the crowd with their punk and energy — one could just tell from their huge smiles that they were having a great time on stage.

Performances were also given by other notable dance groups that are familiar around campus. The JHU Ladybirds found inspiration from the choreography of Bob Fosse and showed off their talents in a fantastic number that contained everything from tap dancing to lifts.

SEE CULTURE, PAGE B5

The N-L catches up with reggae artist Matisyahu

Video gamers race to answer the Call of Duty

The newest installment to the *Call of Duty* series is more engaging and gruesome than its predecessors

FROM MATISYAHU, B3
that we liked and sometimes build songs out of that."

"So that's part of the way songs get written and kind of like, then we start adding on. Then we bring in different people to do different things to the song and then bring it to the producer."

And then we re-tape my vocals and find different people to play on it. We would have this guitar player or that guitar player play different sections of it and build it like that."

His most recent album, *Light*, certainly retains elements similar to his previous work, but it also veers into uncharted territory for Matisyahu.

The ever-hopeful, solidly reggae jam "One Day" was the first single off the album and on repeat play for a lot of alternative radio stations in the summer months.

Light was most influenced by a man called Rabbi Nachman, according to Matisyahu.

"There were two things that chiefly influenced the record: One was the dream that [Nachman] had that was recorded and the other is a story called *The Seven Beggars* which is kind of his most well-known story. I would say that those two things were a big influence, including all of his

teachings and ideas."

The different sounds from *Light* and *Youth* are certainly a result of the different creative process. "With the album *Youth*, basically it was made with one band and we went into the studio and made the record in a relatively short amount of time," he said.

"With [*Light*] it was kind of made over a longer period of time, close to a year and like I said, it was made with lots of different musicians, producers, writers, people. It was more of a collaborative process."

Matisyahu does not pick one sound and stay the course.

Instead, he continues to change things up, propelling his ever-evolving musical sound, which

will involve more collaboration with fellow band members Rob Marscher and Aaron Dugan.

Regardless of the directions Matisyahu takes musically, he will continue to remain true to the topics that affect him most.

Infusing timeless themes into a blend of soulful reggae, rap and alternative styles, it is unlikely that Matisyahu will drop off good music radar anytime soon.

Matisyahu will perform on Saturday, Nov. 21 at Sonar at 7 p.m. Tickets and more information can be found at www.sonarbaltimore.com.



COURTESY OF WWW.MADTV.ME.UK
Jewish reggae rapper Matisyahu explores more than religion in his music.

By LOGAN QUINN
Opinions Editor

Flash bangs exploding, smoke trails from Rocket Propelled Grenades, bullets everywhere. Your vision is blurred from the blood on the screen. This is intense. But then again, you're saving the world from a seat on your couch.

My friends and I were huge fans of *Call of Duty: Modern Warfare*, so you can understand our anticipation at the latest installment in the now staple series. Like most other 18-25-year-old males, we were in line at the nearest Gamestop the day that *COD: MW2* came out. And our anticipation did not go unfulfilled.

That day we were rewarded with what in all likelihood was the most epic story arc ever to be guided by an X-Box 360 controller. It had depth and intrigue, betrayal, numerous plot twists, stunning effects and remarkable scenery.

From the moment you wake up in the streets of Fallujah to take back a school from terrorist forces, to the first time you emerge from a bunker to witness the

buying the game last Thursday. I couldn't go to class; it's not that I didn't want to, but I just couldn't.

I physically could not get myself up to go. Friday, same story — I could not be moved. My house could have literally been on fire and I would have found a way to finish my mission. So consider this a disclaimer: this game may result in a significant drop in your GPA.

Speaking of disclaimers, this is

the first game I have ever seen with a warning at the outset. The first time you turn on the game, you get to choose whether or not to play a certain level (I won't go into depth here, needless to say, it is probably the most offensive content I have ever seen, and I've watched *120 Days of Sodomy*) and you have to confirm your choice more than once.



COURTESY OF WWW.GAMEWORLD.COM

Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 will have video gamers glued to their seats with its epic storyline and effects.

TITLE
Call of Duty: World at War

GENRE

First-Person Shooter, Third-Person Shooter

PUBLISHER

Activision

RELEASE DATE

Nov. 10, 2009

NEW VIBRATIONS

ARTIST
OneRepublic

ALBUM

Waking Up

LABEL

Interscope

RELEASED

Nov. 17, 2009

scene, though members retain the best of that genre in their sound.

Tedder's experience with production clearly puts the group at an advantage — the album oozes slick effects and beautiful vocal layering.

OneRepublic seems to rely not only on the traditional band instruments — guitar, bass, drums — but also on the less predictable ones.

With the exception of drummer Eddie Fisher, each member of the quintet is a multi-instrumentalist. Glockenspiel, viola and cello are just some of the less-traditional instruments that the album showcases.

Strings particularly contribute heavily in OneRepublic's sound, often taking the place of guitars and bass in effect. At one point, the band features an organ. Make no mistake though, despite the use of more classical arrangements, *Waking Up* is very much a radio-friendly album.

The pop appeal can be attributed perhaps to that juxtaposition with hip-hop beats beneath piano and viola runs. Tedder uses these rhythms to create a universal appeal that gets toes tapping.

Add in a proclivity for cadenced, singsong verses and the

occasional urge to beatbox and you've achieved OneRepublic's signature sound. Layers of vocal harmonies, beats and classical canonical structure make up the majority of the album and create a one-of-a-kind experience.

That is not to say the album is perfect — the very thing that makes this record so good is also its major downfall.

At times the songs seem overproduced, disingenuous and overwhelming. OneRepublic relies too much upon the string section, or any non-traditional instrument for that matter, to bring depth and perspective. The drums carry the "rock" sound, but the guitar and bass often get lost beneath the layers of production and effects.

Singles include "All the Right Moves" and "Everybody Loves Me." The former starts with an organ vibrato that complements Tedder's soaring voice.

The most interesting part of the song comes from the drum parts, which mimic the stuttered phrases of the hip-hop genre. The lyrics speak of disillusionment, with Tedder singing, "Do you think I'm special? Do you think I'm nice? / Am I bright enough to shine in your spaces?"

Likewise, "Everybody Loves Me" makes reference to Julius Caesar and his assassination at the hands of Brutus: "Hail Caesar, shadow on my backseat / and her friends are standing right in front of me." One can only wonder what woman encouraged such malice from Tedder. The upbeat, quirky melody contrasts with his bitterness even as he sings the chorus, ironically, "Everybody loves me."

Other songs to download include "Good Life," which offers acoustic guitar, whistling and a lovely breakdown that showcases Tedder's voice and the percussion. "Waking Up," the title track, may be the best song on the album.

Although the intro and outro are perfect examples of overproduction, the rest of the song epitomizes the band with its sweeping vocals and distinct rock sound.

A strikingly simple song for the majority of its duration in terms of effects, "Waking Up" hits all the right notes and leaves a lasting impression.

—Hsia-Ting Chang



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—Hsia-Ting Chang

ARTIST
AC/DC

ALBUM

Backtracks

LABEL

Sony Legacy

RELEASED

Nov. 10, 2009

In America, we don't have the same AC/DC albums that were released in Australia. It wasn't until the creation of AC/DC's fifth album that the track listings for the Australian and international releases would match, and until then, tracks would be chopped, re-ordered or dropped on the international versions.

With the *Backtracks* boxed set, those missing and altered tracks from the '70s are finally collected for the American market, along with B-sides and rarities from the band's time with singer Brian Johnson. The set also includes a disc of live recordings and a DVD that features just about all of AC/DC's music videos up to the present day.

There are two versions of *Backtracks* available for purchase. The first is the fairly-priced \$40 set that includes two CDs worth of material, plus the DVD. The second is the less-fairly-priced, but quite impressive \$200 set that includes a coffee table book and an additional CD of live rarities among other things.

The first disc is interesting, but not essential. It's nice to finally hear "Crabsody in Blue." "Love Song" gives fans an idea of what the band might have been like had they decided to focus on songs about romance rather than the paeans to liquor and loose women that have come to define the band's lyrical style.

"Fling Thing" is a sweet rock instrumental version of "The Bonnie Banks o' Loch Lomond." In the \$200 collector's edition, there are six additional tracks, each previously released, but somehow altered between their



American and international versions.

The second disc, however, is what makes the set interesting to more than just AC/DC completists. There are four fantastic live recordings taken from the days when Bon Scott was the band's singer, and 11 tracks ranging from decent to excellent in quality that were recorded with singer Brian Johnson.

Some of the Brian Johnson-era tracks suffer from long instrumental breaks that must have been just thrilling to the audiences there to see the band live, but that drag when listened to on CD.

There's enough solid material here, including tracks that haven't previously been available except

in studio versions. Excellent songs from quality albums like *Flick of the Switch* and *Stiff Upper Lip* can be heard as they were performed live, and they sound just as good, maybe better, than the album versions.

For 40 bucks, the decision to get this set hinges on two things: how badly one wants to hear AC/DC live recordings, and whether or not one already owns the *Family Jewels* music video collection released a few years back.

ARTIST
Dashboard Confessional

ALBUM

Alter the Ending

LABEL

Universal Music Group

RELEASED

Nov. 10, 2009

Dashboard Confessional's *Alter the Ending* is released after a succession of lukewarm albums, and it is as charming and wonderful as 2003's *A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar*. Dashboard has always been a go-to

band for those intimate songs that capitalize on both their heartwarming lyrics and frontman Chris Carrabba's seductive voice.

It was for the above reason that songs like "Stolen" and "Hands Down" were so wildly successful. Like most of Dashboard's ballads, with a few strums on the guitar and a couple of lines from a verse, a girl's heart will melt.

Alter the Ending succeeds because, while some songs deviate from classical Dashboard, they still acknowledge the success of their standby sound. The special edition of this album features the entirety of the album recorded acoustically.

Alter features more electric guitar and swelling strings intros in some songs — a bit different from some of Dashboard's older

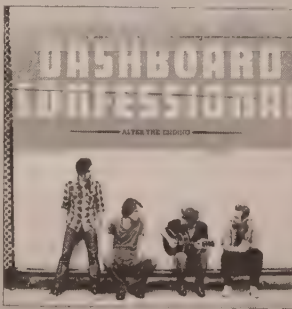
work — so the acoustic version provides a different take that listeners may not be familiar with. It is definitely worth checking out.

While Dashboard ventures on a more "produced" and "studio" sound for some of the songs in *Alter*, the band still conveys its sense of intimacy. "Until Morning" is a great example of this. Both its acoustic and full-instrumental versions are reminiscent of The Ataris. "Belle of the Boulevard" almost screams, "I belong on a movie soundtrack!" Oh, wait. That's because it is in *Cirque du Freak: Vampire's Assistant*.

Poor movie choices aside, the album features quite a few repeat-worthy tunes. Carrabba is at his best when he sings low and at a whisper, making lines like, "Even now I can smell your skin / as I wrap you in a towel / lay you on the bed / and try to love you" seem as if they are sung heavy with emotion.

The band sounds a little less like themselves and a little more like pop-alternative bands like Motion City Soundtrack in a few of their songs. This is neither good nor bad, it all depends on your musical inclinations.

Choruses and bridges consist



of a one-line repeat, like, "Oh, if this is chemical / then I am not ashamed to be bound by the impulses of science." This chorus in "The Motions" is catchy, but not traditional Dashboard.

But never fear — even in the non-acoustic album, songs like "Hell on the Throat" are similar to all those guitar-heavy ballads from albums like *The Shade of Poison Trees* and *Dusk and Summer*.

Dashboard puts pillow talk and sweet nothings to music and if Carrabba doesn't watch it, he will ruin every girl that listens to his love songs for all the other boys in the world. All of Dashboard Confessional's songs are swoonworthy, but *Alter the Ending* is an arrow straight to the heart.

—Christina Warner

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Local and national artists compete for a Woodie award

WOODIES, FROM B3
expanded to include Nick Harmer on bass and Jason McCierr on drums, as well as guitarist Walla. The indie quartet has been hard at work on their song "Meet Me At the Equinox" for the Twilight follow-up *New Moon*. "Actually, we're fans, I think me more than anyone else in the band. I love the Twilight series. So when the opportunity came up to do it, it actually seemed like something that would be fun to do," Walla said.

The band will be performing their song at the Woodie Awards to coincide with the film's opening later that week.

The star-studded line up, along with a plethora of other bands or artists, will be eligible for such awards as Artist of the Year, Best Emerging Artist, Most Original Artist, Best Video of the Year, Best Tour and Greatest Social Impact.

The Woodie Awards even allow for local talent to shine with

categories such as Best Radio and Best Music on Campus. This year, Baltimore has its own claim to fame.

Up for the BMOC Woodie, Loyola-based band Oh, the Story! heads up to New York on Nov. 18 to participate in the celebrations. Known best perhaps for their song "The Astronomer," the band has released

an album entitled *Good Morning Illumination*. Unsigned as of yet, the band hopes to win some recognition at the celebrations on Wednesday.

Even members of MTV recognize the light-hearted and fun nature of the show. "First and foremost, it is a celebration of great music," a spokesperson from mtvU — the college branch of MTV — explained. "Lots of fantastic performances, great accolades being given out and great attendees in the house."

Tune in to mtvU on Dec. 4 to find out the winners.

The crowd whips us up into a frenzy and hopefully we do the same to the crowd.

—NATHANIEL MOTT



COURTESY OF WWW.CURRENT.COM

Asher Roth's *Asleep in the Bread Aisle* grabbed him a lot of attention this year.

See Eric Levitz's surreal play *Tomorrow*

By NATALIE BERKMAN
Staff Writer

Last Friday, the Merrick Barn Theater curtain rose on *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*, a new full-length play by award-winning student playwright, Eric Kalman Levitz. This marked a momentous occasion for the Johns Hopkins Theater Arts and Studies Program: the first time they have performed a student play on the main program. This tragicomedy delighted the audience by immediately breaking the fourth wall and introducing them to a play about life — or really a life about a play.

It is easy to see that the Hopkins Theater Program is a very close community: *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* was directed by John Astin — a Hopkins alumnus — most famous for his role in *The Addams Family*. It stars Mackenzie Astin who, like his father, is also an accomplished actor and former student at Homewood.

The students in the production encompass many departments of Hopkins, including Writing Seminars, International Studies, film and media studies, and natural sciences. The bios of all those involved in the program are humorous and enthusiastic; everyone seems excited about performing a play by one of their own.

Moreover, the theater was filled with students and community members who were all eager to watch an Eric Levitz original. No one was disappointed with this smart, quick and thoroughly entertaining show.

Levitz is a senior Writing Seminars major who has already been labeled of the best college playwrights in the nation. In 2008, his 10-minute play *Without Parachutes* won first prize at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. In *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*, aside from quoting Macbeth, Levitz allows Ben (Mackenzie Astin), a playwright, to tell his stories.

Immediately, though, Ben



MISCHA LASSOW/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Mackenzie Astin portrays a playwright searching to find his own story in Eric Levitz's play *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*.

claims that: "To have a life worth watching, you have to create it yourself." So he pulls Alex (Emily Daly, senior) out of the audience and the two begin a relationship and a story.

It is evident that their story serves as an allegory for the creative process of writing a play, and as such, clocks spin arbitrarily, giant purses hand Alex cigarettes, existential thoughts abound and Ben drinks a lot of Yoo-hoo.

When Alex leaves, Ben loses his direction — cue second act. As the curtains open, Ben returns as an older, grayer character, still struggling through his artistic endeavors. He meets Joanna (Erica Bauman, senior), Jack (Alex Neville, senior) and Cassandra (Emily Sucher, sophomore), all of whom create interesting roles for themselves. If the play sounds strange, random, and surreal, it is. As Ben says, "that's the way

time is when your life is a play."

Although Levitz has wanted to be a writer since he was young, he first started writing plays in high school. For him, writing and putting on a play is a fulfilling endeavor. As he said, "Just having the experience of writing something and not having it just put into the drawer and being a lonely personal experience, but to create a project I could do with my friends and get an audience for it," has been a privilege.

A triple threat, Levitz writes, directs and acts, but not all three for every one of his plays. "I did three different plays in high school which I wrote, acted, and directed. When I was originally writing [*Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow*], I wrote it with the idea of playing the main character in mind to add another level of meta-weirdness to it." The metafictional aspects of *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* certainly provide interesting food for thought.

Working with Professor Astin and his son Mackenzie has been a rewarding experience for Levitz. "It's been really affirming. John had actually been thinking about doing a previous play of mine that I ended up doing with Witness Theater called 'Projections.' [The day] he e-mailed me in August and said he was going to pursue 'Projections' for the theater was the day I finished the new play, so I said 'That's great,

but this one's better. Can we do this one?'"

After he graduates, Levitz plans to go to graduate school, but his specific aims are still undecided. "I've sort of been planning to go into screenwriting since it's a more culturally relevant medium than plays. A fraction of one percent of Americans go to a theatrical production every year, so it's just a small group of people that you're reaching. It also happens to be an aging and disappearing group of people, unfortunately."

In Shakespeare's tragic play of the same name, Macbeth, who is devastated from the news of his wife's death, proclaims: "Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, that struts and frets his hour upon the stage, and then is heard no more. It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

In the same vein, Levitz has recreated this "poor player" and has attempted to analyze life's lost hour on the stage.

This weekend, the production of *Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow* continues with two evening performances and a Sunday matinee. So, see it tomorrow (and tomorrow and tomorrow). The cost is \$5 for students with a Hopkins ID, \$13 for faculty, staff and seniors, and \$15 for the general public. For further information email JHUT@jhu.edu or call (410) 516-5153.

Even Picasso would play these video games

By GREG SGAMMATO
Arts & Entertainment Editor

In today's society, playing video games is never really accepted as legitimate. Parents spend hours trying to stop their kids from playing them. Play too much, and you'll be labeled a loser no matter what your age or socioeconomic status.

While this article won't argue for toddlers playing *Mortal Kombat* or Hopkins students slaving away at *World of Warcraft*, it will defend video games in a fundamental way: they can be art.

From the start, let's establish the condition being placed on that statement. Video games certainly aren't always art, but neither is any form of media.

Working a video camera doesn't make you Scorsese and working a typewriter won't increase your ability with the English language. In certain situations, though, video games are capable of adding to the aesthetic; they can shape and impact our emotions in a tangible way.

Well, where can the line be drawn? In order for a game to be artistic, it must convey some semblance of a story. *Madden* and *NBA Live* don't make the cut. Neither do rudimentary forms

of video games, like *Pong*, *Tetris*, and the like. Nor can we include massive multi-player online role-playing games, like *WoW* or *The Lord of the Rings Online*.

That is not to say that these games are not fun or inherently valuable; they simply can't be considered art. Sports games are just simulating a physical activity and, as such, fail to evoke an emotional response beyond that of the superficial. *Tetris* and the like involve no deep emotional activity.

Furthermore, we cannot include multiplayer games. At the point where one recognizes that these games revolve around interaction, they cease to be art under the given framework.

One may have artistic moments while playing, but the game can't be categorically called art. Its output depends on the real-time flow of other players' inputs.

Not only will the game's experience be different for everyone — one can say this about anything — but the game itself will depend on its players.

So what video game is art? It isn't guitar hero, or any multi-player game. It isn't *Goldeneye* or *Mario Kart*. It certainly isn't a hack-and-slash game. These may be excellent, but they aren't art.

A game must be governed



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Video games such as *Bioshock* are impressive for their quality graphics.

by its story. As such, no multi-player games are art. The single-player aspect of a game is the only arena in which video game creators can design a meaningful, emotionally engaging story.

Furthermore, the story needs to be good. For example, *Biodome* had a story, but that movie was beyond the definition of terrible. Herein we see an opportunity for subjectivity; this is both necessary and expected.

Not all people agree than a single movie is artistically valuable; so too with video games.

An example of an artistically valuable video game franchise is *Metal Gear Solid*. These games tell a meaningful, intricate and powerful story. They often feature long lists of voice actors who lend their talents to the production of the game.

While the player has free reign to go through the motions of the game, there is an overarching story line that he must eventually follow.

In this way, the creators of the game are forcing the player to conform to their idea of what the game should be. If this idea

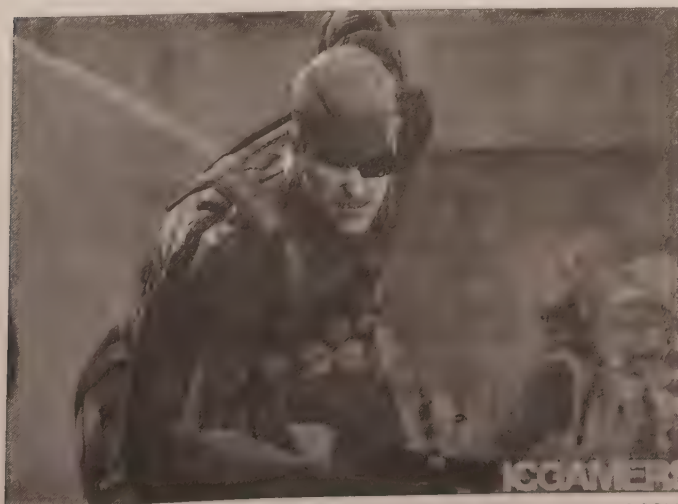
is great, then the game is transitively great. Great graphics, gameplay, music and boss battles can be supplementary in this regard.

A second example is *Bioshock*. While the game is a first-person shooter, it exposes its audience to a beautiful, macabre underwater world and allows its story to unfold through tape cassettes that one's character discovers throughout the course of the game.

In this way, the elements of gameplay and storytelling are uniquely and perfectly mixed.

Historically, video games have not been recognized as art; perhaps this is because when they first existed, they were not. As the medium by which game creators can tell their stories improves, though, so too can the final product.

Films — originally called move-ees in a derogatory sense — were not always accepted as legitimate, either. One can only hope that the quality of video games continues to increase. Eventually, these works may garner the attention and respect they deserve.



COURTESY OF WWW.SELECTSTARTGAMES.COM

Multi-player game *Metal Gear Solid* features realistic and detailed human graphics.

Heritage and traditions celebrated at Culture Show

CULTURE, FROM B3

Jaywalk performed a haunting dance based on the significance of the full moon, while the Modern Dance Company silenced the audience in a chilling yet undeniably impressive piece about the Salem Witch Trials. The Hopkins Ballet Company also made a quick, graceful appearance, putting on a short segment from *The Nutcracker Ballet* entitled "Chinese."

Of course, not every performance of the night was dance. Capoeira, a Brazilian martial art developed in the colonial period by slaves, took the stage and wowed the audience with deft acrobatics and frenzied mock-sparring, all set to a throbbing beat. Audience members spent the entire time biting their nails nervously, sure that someone was going to get a concussion from receiving a kick in the head, but of course all the fighters were much too adept to let that happen.

The Hopkins Gospel Choir brought everything one would expect from a gospel choir — wide smiles, astounding energy and music instilled with joy and vivacity. The director was especially enjoyable to watch, as her enthusiasm and elation led the Hopkins Gospel Choir into a wonderful performance.

Ketzev, the co-ed Jewish cappella group, and Kranti, the Hindi-English fusion cappella group, also performed, and although I had no idea what either group was singing about, their sound was nevertheless passionate and beautiful.

The night ended with a stunning number by the Hopkins Breakdancers, who showcased the U.S. culture in an unparalleled, jaw-dropping performance. It was a captivating end to a great show that showcased Hopkins talent and diversity.

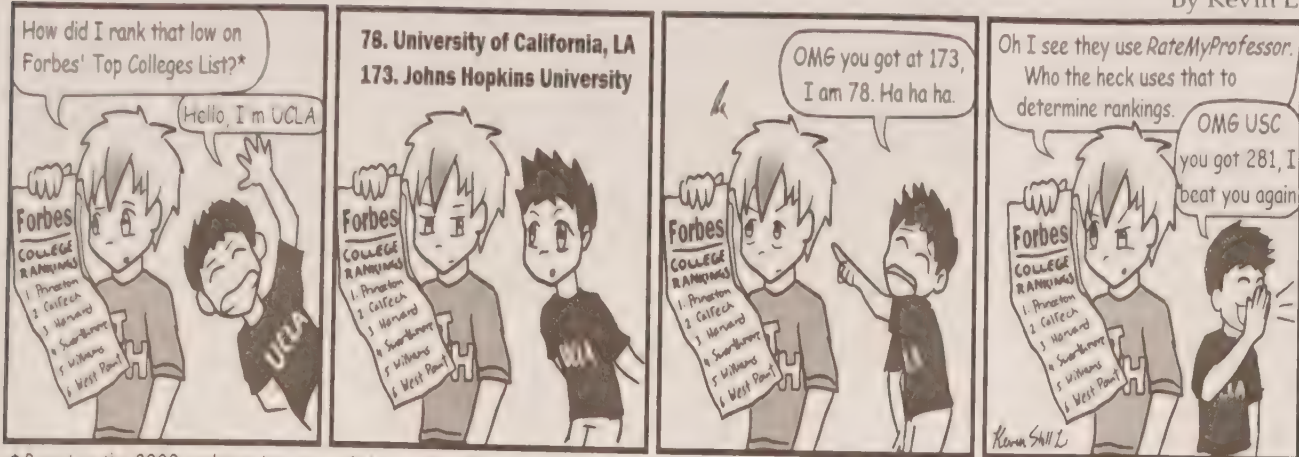


DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Shakti, one of the Culture Shows' many dance groups, performed Indian dances.

CARTOONS, ETC.

Blue Jay Brigade



* Based on the 2009 rankings. http://www.forbes.com/lists/2009/94/colleges-09_Johns-Hopkins-University_94207.html

By Kevin Li

Thanksgiving Word Search

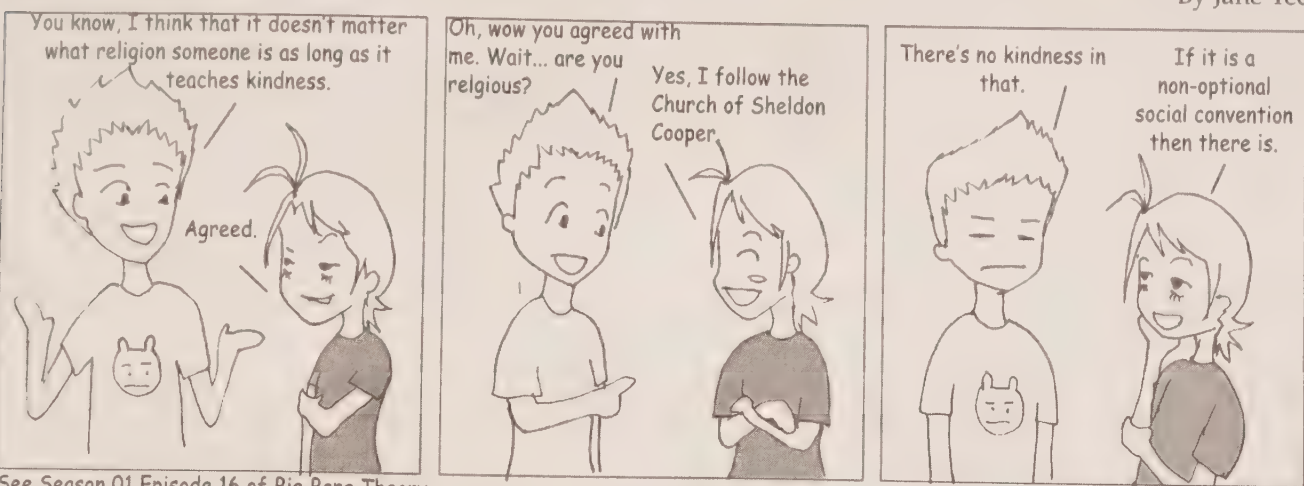
By Katie Mann

Autumn	Family	Gobble Gobble	Pumpkin Pie
Stuffing	Black Friday	Food	Harvest
Shopping	Thanksgiving	Corn	Friends
Macy's Parade	Sleep	Tofurkey	Cranberry
Give Thanks	Pilgrims	Squash	Turkey

Words can be forward, backward, or diagonal

G O B B L E G O B B L E E C P
H A R V E S T M J L Q U O I U
A m t G Q T D Y T A U R D P M
G U F J O U H J K C N P F M P
N W T H L F T U R K E Y N H K
I A B U S F S D V F O O D Y I
V F Y F M I Z X C R S D W L N
I G E R Q N U S M I R G L I P
G N M I X G D L E D W E R M I
S I Q E H K F E S A P I O A E
K P Z N S S C E X Y V B N F D
N P E D A R A P S Y C A M S F
A O K S U E R Y E K R U F O T
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T S D E S S K N A H T E V I G

Quentin and Sam

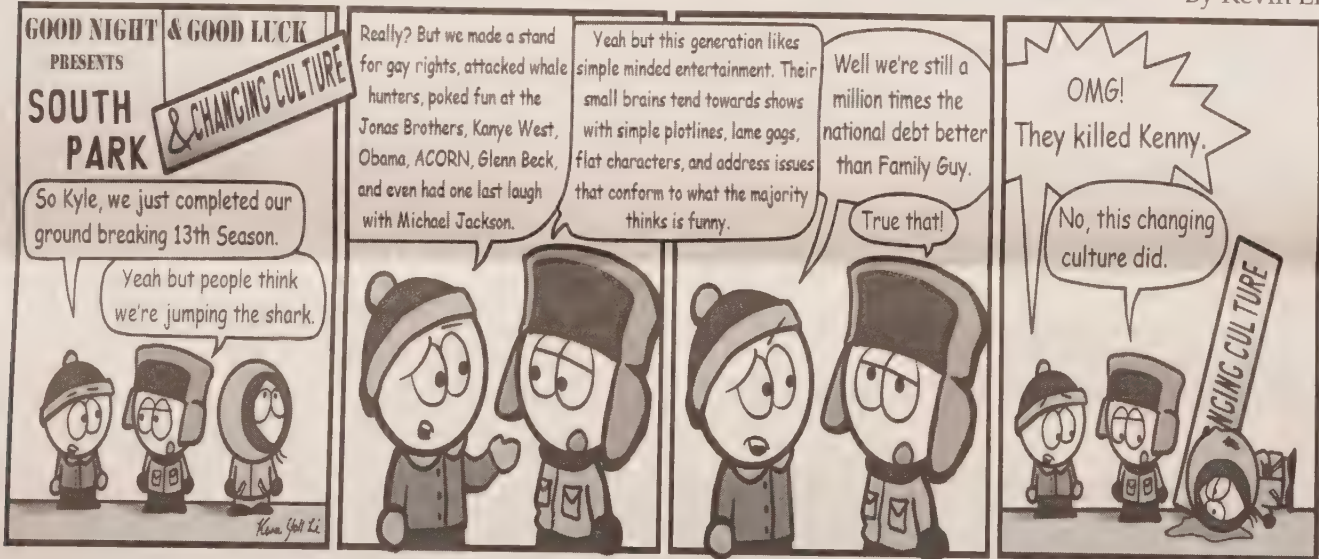


See Season 01 Episode 16 of Big Bang Theory

By Jane Yee

Good Night & Good Luck

By Kevin Li



Findings

By Takoyaki

Findings #5: "LOVE" LETTERS (inspired by those sad love polygons you see on TV)

(Geeky Obsession)

Dear Tako, You're like a Bursen Burner, You're so hot when I get close I feel like I'm burning...



(Twisted SM Love)

Dear Sergio, You know you like it so stop slipping away when I try to torture you...



(Deity Worship)

Leafy-samu, you are my idol. I dedicated a shrine to you and made my love that I hate lunch in your image... you- wait, what?



(Conflicted Adoration)

Dear Tux, I hate that I love that I hate that I love that I hate lunch in your image... you- wait, what?

(Ambitious Love)

Dear Takoniku, Here's a CPS Question Do you:
A. Like me?
B. Love me?
C. Adore me?

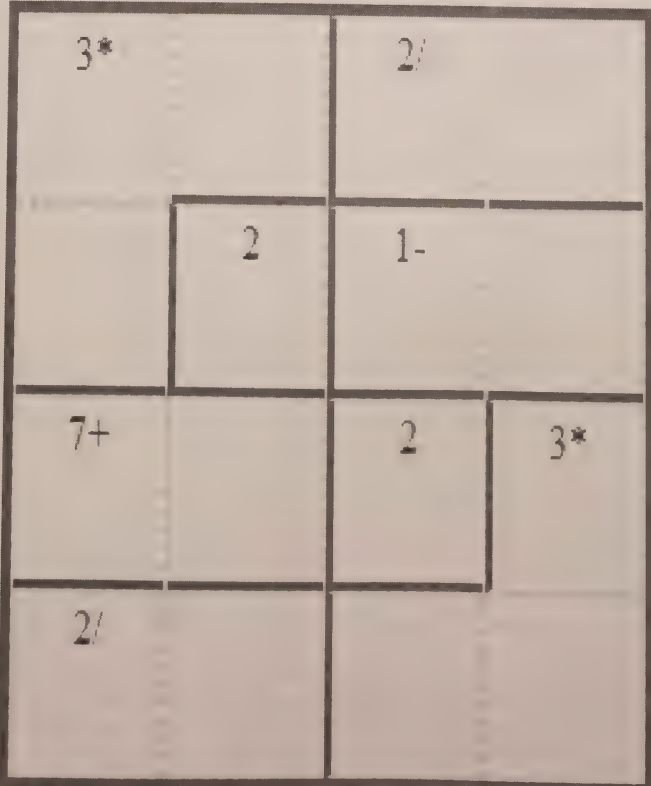
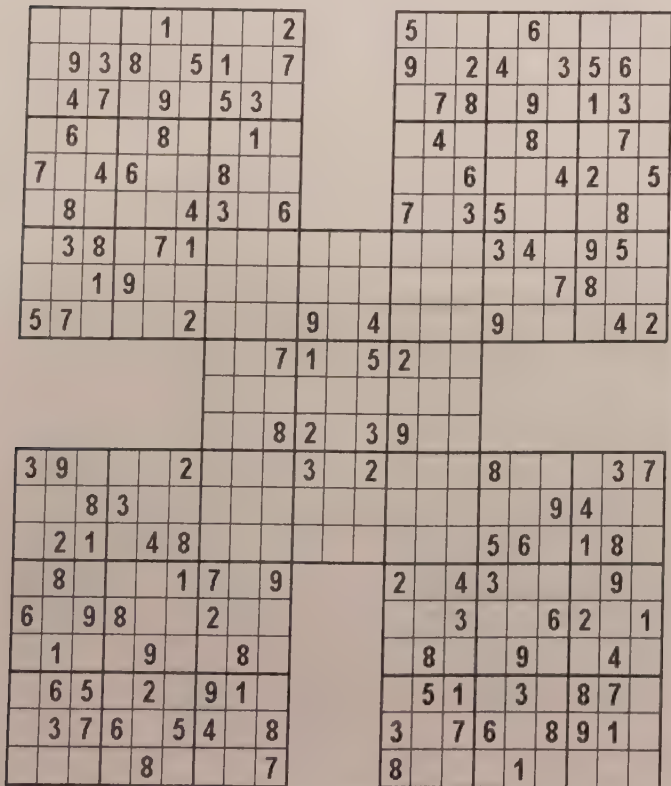


Challenging Sudoku(s)

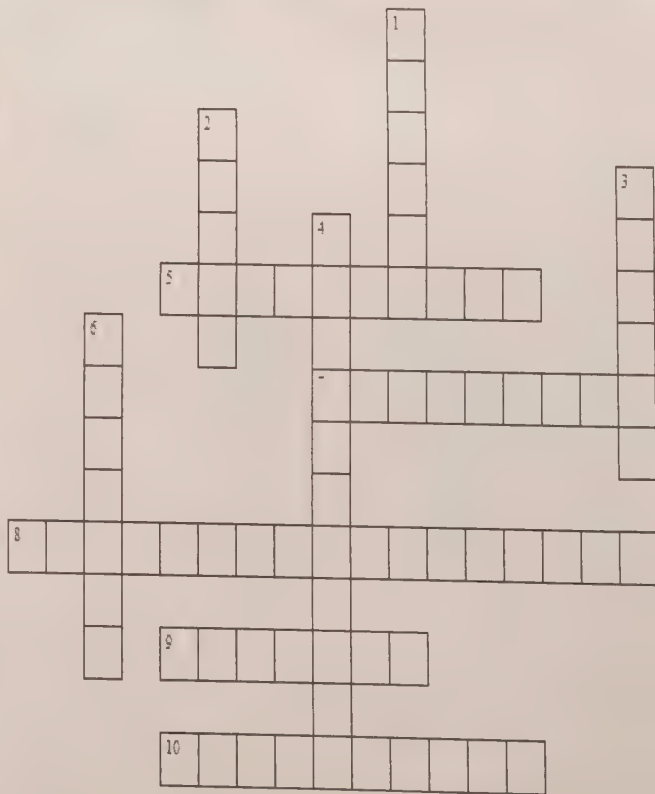
sudoku.binaryworlds.com

Ken Ken Puzzle

www.webkendoku.com



News-Letter Crossword



ACROSS

- 5 Washington's __ 71 gave "everything-but-marriage" for gay couple
- 7 New amendment reduces funds for __ Science research
- 8 Used to detect cancer in GI tract
- 9 HKB petitions for campus-wide __ ban
- 10 __ Activity was actually produced in 2007

DOWN

- 1 Large __ Collider will be operational in December
- 2 __ Polo wins D3 Eastern Championship
- 3 Solar system is shaped like a __ instead of a comet
- 4 __ One in Maine allowed gay marriage
- 6 10th Annual Great Halloween __ Festival and Parade

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

MESSENGER begins revealing Mercury's secrets

By JULIA ZHANG
Staff Writer

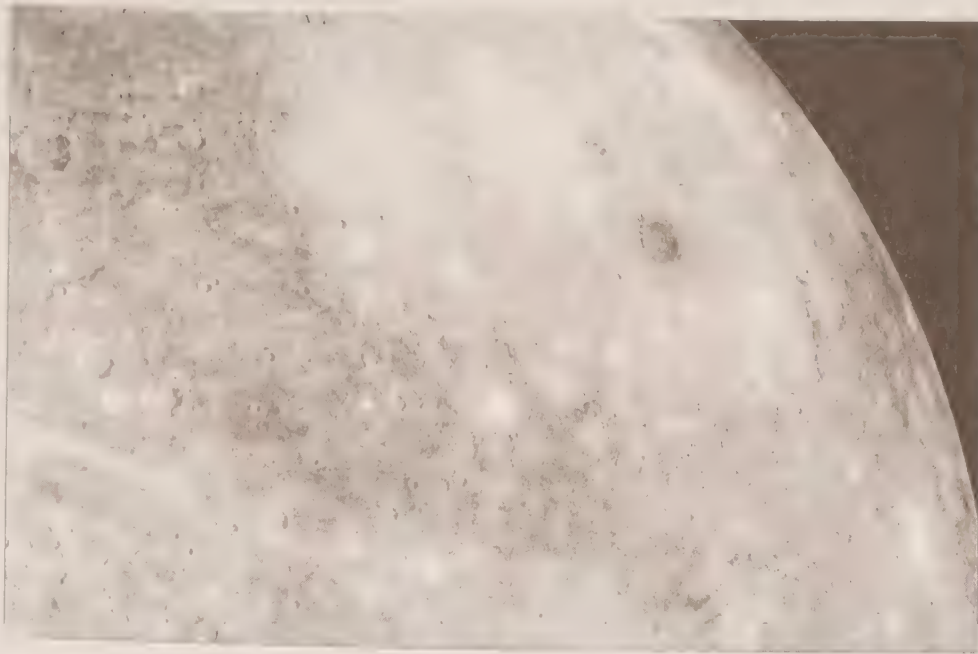
Lately, the discoveries made about the solar system have been astronomical, especially concerning the smallest and inner-most planet, Mercury.

The MErcury Surface, Space ENvironment, GEOchemistry, and Ranging, or MESSENGER, spacecraft was designed by the Hopkins Applied Science Laboratory to collect data about Mercury's core structure, magnetic field, high density, geological history, atmosphere and poles, and ultimately transmit the information back to Earth.

Scientists were also looking for evidence to support several theories, including one theory that the planet is gradually shrinking. These ideas originated when the first probe to ever visit Mercury (the Mariner 10) brought back images of gigantic scarps, faults in the planet's crust, in 1975.

MESSENGER has made three fly-bys around Mercury, two of which occurred this year. In addition, the spacecraft previously made one Earth fly-by and two Venus fly-bys, all in preparation for entering into orbit around Mercury in 2011. To orbit a planet, a man-made object must strategically accelerate and decelerate until it becomes an artificial satellite of a larger body.

In the second fly-by around Mercury, large flux transfers were observed in the planet's magnetosphere, behavior that



The MESSENGER spacecraft imaged Mercury's surface during its third flyby. It is scheduled to enter the planet's orbit in 2011.

differed greatly from what was observed during the first fly-by. This brings attention to how solar and wind interactions with a planet's magnetic field can influence occurrences in the magnetosphere, especially, as in this case, when the planet is so close to the sun.

During the third and final fly-by completed on Oct. 6 of this year, MESSENGER unveiled a never-before-seen thirty percent of Mercury's surface.

Technology played a key role in these new findings. Whereas the Mariner 10 was equipped with cameras only capable of resolving images up to .99 miles across, MESSENGER's cameras could resolve images up to 59 feet, allowing much more accurate conclusions to be drawn from photos.

From over 1,200 images taken in the most recent fly-by, scientists observed that Mercury's surface is very different from other

planets', with its large craters and extensive bright regions surrounding irregular depressions that could be volcanic plains.

The Mercury Laser Altimeter (MLA) allowed high-resolution analysis of the planet's topography, for the first time ever. These measurements will give scientists the ability to better interpret Mercury's surface geology.

An instrument called the Magnetometer was used to observe Mercury's magnetosphere. It was discovered on the third fly-by that Mercury's internal magnetic field is highly symmetric. Before, most of the available data was only on the planet's eastern hemisphere but this time, the western hemisphere was also covered.

The Mercury Atmospheric and Surface Composition Spectrometer analyzed Mercury's exosphere and detected traces of magnesium there for the first time while also noting that the distributions of sodium, calcium and magnesium differ from area to area, and from time to time. The dynamic changes in the exosphere are considered "seasonal effects" caused by proximity to the sun. Mercury's surface was also discovered to have much higher average iron and titanium compositions than expected.

Currently, scientists have images of about 95 percent of Mercury's surface and have made quite a few significant discoveries about the planet. There are still observations to make and theories to examine, but, overall, the future of MESSENGER looks bright.

How physics and the Yankees won the Series

By ERIC GOODMAN
Sports Editor

As I watched my beloved Yankees defeat the Phillies to win the 2009 World Series two weeks ago, several questions popped into my head regarding the science of the game.

I'm a pretty casual fan, so maybe it was because I had spent most of the week in the library studying that I had my "the way things work" cap on. But something about watching A.J. Burnett throw filthy sliders past helpless Philadelphia batters made me curious about the science behind America's pastime.

Understanding how a baseball is pitched involves both standard equations and more advanced topics in physics, ranging from velocity, distance and height vectors, to forces such as drag, air resistance, Magnus effect, rotational velocity and pressure zones.

An important thing to realize about baseball pitches is that from the time the pitcher releases the ball, it is a matter of mere milliseconds before the ball reaches the plate, leaving the batter with a microscopic reaction time.

Also, gravity is at work in the sense that the ball will drop over the duration of the pitch. The distance from the mound to home plate is 60 feet and six inches and the average major league fastball is around 90 miles per hour, so it takes a lightning fast .458 seconds for the ball to reach home plate from the pitcher's mound.

Using time to solve for the height vector and assuming a pitcher's height to be six feet, gravity causes a drop of approximately 3.4 feet. Fastballs have a backspin that gives them a fairly stable aerodynamic flight and a predictable trajectory. The curve-

ball, however, is a different story.

A curveball is one of the most useful pitches in the game of baseball. Burnett, for example, uses the pitch with great regularity and is often thought to have the best one in baseball. The curveball is thrown by the pitcher such that the palm and fingers are over the top of the ball upon its release, giving it a downwards or sideways spin.

The point at which the ball breaks, or changes direction, is determined by when the pitcher snaps his wrist. Snapping the wrist earlier in the motion causes the ball to break earlier, and snapping it later will cause the ball to hold its path longer and curve later.

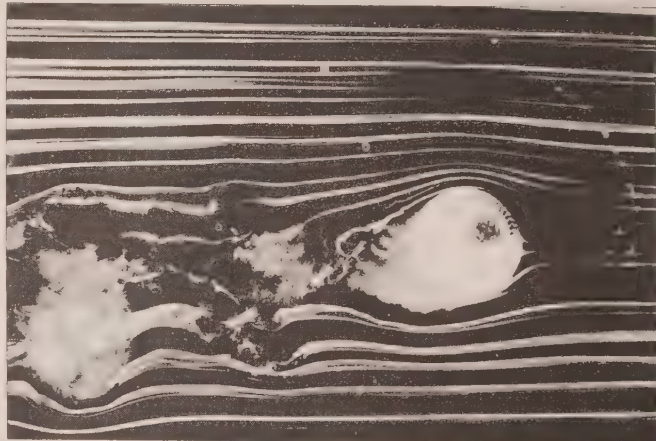
Baseballs are designed with 216 raised stitches, which curveball pitchers grip with their middle and index fingers. According to researchers at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, as the pitcher spins the ball, the stitching gathers up air while it is rotating, creating a higher air pressure on one side of the ball.

This stress makes the air flowing around the ball break away from the surface sooner. The air at the top of the spinning ball is subject to less stress and hangs onto the ball's surface longer. Because of this phenomenon, the curveball does most of its curving in the last quarter of flight.

This imbalance of force is called the Magnus effect — the idea that the pressure on one side of the ball is greater than on the other side. For a slider, the high pressure zone on top keeps the ball downward in flight. Combined with gravity this produces an exaggerated drop in flight, making the pitch hard for the batter to track.

Another interesting pitch to look at from a physics perspective

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE B9



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Differences in air pressure around a spinning baseball cause changes in its trajectory.

Mutated protein contributes to Lou Gehrig's

By SAM OHMER
Staff Writer

A new finding by researchers at Hopkins's School of Medicine has elucidated a little-known molecular pathway in the development of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), or Lou Gehrig's disease. The study by Kevin Chen, Lee Martin and Frances Northington has discovered a malfunction mechanism that they believe can and does contribute to the development of ALS.

The mechanism involves overexpression of one protein in particular: inducible nitric oxide synthase (iNOS or NOS2). This protein seems to be upregulated, at least in part, by a mutated form of the gene encoding for the superoxide dismutase-1 (SOD1) enzyme.

Inducible nitric oxide synthase, as its name suggests, is an enzyme that synthesizes nitric oxide. Nitric oxide in the brain serves a variety of functions, one of which is its role as a freely diffusing neurotransmitter.

However, nitric oxide (NO) can also react with a form of oxygen called the superoxide anion (O2-) to form highly reactive and destructive products. Usually the superoxide anion is processed into a less harmful form by the SOD1 protein.

When SOD1 is not working properly, highly reactive products of nitric oxide and the superoxide anion can accumulate and cause extensive damage. These products, such as the peroxynitrite ion, damage cells by attacking key molecular building blocks like amino acids, lipids and nucleic acids.

"Motor neurons, which are uniquely vulnerable in ALS, are also unique in that they ex-

press . . . very, very low levels [of] iNOS normally, even without any ALS pathology," Martin said. "Furthermore, and quite interestingly, even before symptoms of ALS emerge at a macro, observable level, the level of iNOS expressed in some cells increases noticeably, most specifically in the motor neurons of the spinal cord and the brainstem."

Later on, however, the greatest up-regulation of iNOS is not in these cells, but rather in some microglia and astrocytes. Microglia and astrocytes are two types of neuronal support cells. Usually, they help to protect neurons or deliver nutrients and neurotransmitter precursors to neurons.

In this particular mechanism of ALS, however, these support cells might also be passing onto neurons something they don't need: damage caused by reactive nitrogen and oxygen species.

Furthermore, the greatest accumulations of iNOS were found in the mitochondria of affected cells. The inner compartments of mitochondria supply most of the cell's energy in the form of ATP. Some of the reactions involved produce oxygen species that may act as targets for aberrant iNOS behavior.

The damage caused by the mutated SOD1 and subsequent up-regulation of the iNOS protein is selective mostly for motor neurons. These are the neurons that send their signals to muscles, telling them when and how to contract or relax. As the disease inevitably progresses, symptoms worsen. The first signs are weakness of the muscles, muscle degeneration and spastic movements.

The later stages of ALS are characterized not only by the worsening of these symptoms, but also by paralysis of movement, of

speech, of swallowing and even, eventually, of breathing. This degeneration occurs in just three to five years.

Most patients will "die because they become paralyzed and cannot swallow or breathe," Lee Martin, one of the scientists who worked on this research, said. These last years are highly unpleasant ones, and there exist few to no medications or treatments that can even address, let alone actually treat or cure, the symptoms.

Scientists like Chen, Martin and Northington are highly excited by their findings. "Our study shows

that this up-regulation of iNOS contributes to the development of pathology in ALS and that blocking iNOS has significant effects on the development and duration of disease," Martin said.

At least within the mouse model used to study ALS, drugs that act as inhibitors of iNOS's function can delay the onset of ALS. They also extend the life expectancy of ALS-suffering mice, suggesting that in the future, similarly functioning drugs may prove to be effective pharmacological therapies and treatments.

It is thought that 10 percent of all cases of ALS have an inherited genetic component, with 20 percent of these involving the SOD1 mutation. As a result, this study, and other complementary ones, are crucial in our development of a deeper and more useful understanding of how ALS develops.

In pursuit of that purpose, scientists will continue their already decade-long investigation by searching for more answers.

Future investigations will study why normal, healthy motor neurons express iNOS, whether similar mutations in other mouse models exhibit the same patterns of disease development, which drugs will best inhibit the development of the disease, the effects of such drugs on human tissues and whether these drugs will ever be viable human treatments.

With these and other topics in mind, doctors and scientists alike are pushing forward to achieve a greater understanding of how to target and treat ALS.

Blocking iNOS has significant effects on the development and duration of disease.

— LEE MARTIN,
PROFESSOR OF PATHOLOGY
AND NEUROSCIENCE



COURTESY OF WWW.ALS.NET

Over-production of nitric oxide may lead to neuronal damage.

New uses of CT scans extend beyond the heart

By VIVEK SINANAN
Staff Writer

A newly improved technique for viewing the interior of the blood vessels located in the heart could possibly have applications in other vessels that transport blood to and from different parts of the body, says a new report.

The technique, known as multidetector computed tomography, or MDCT, is a type of medical imaging method created by computer processing. It involves a large number of 2-D X-ray images, taken about an axis of rotation, that are finally combined together by a computer processor to form a detailed 3-D image.

The final 3-D image can be used to view the interior of several places within the body, including the head, chest, heart, abdomen, pelvis and extremities.

An MDCT image of the interior of the heart can be combined with another technique called angiography to view the blood vessels that transport blood within the heart. These vessels are known as the coronary arteries. Angiography involves the injection of a contrast dye into the blood that allows visualization of blood flow within the vessels. This is essential in locating blockages that can impede blood flow.

This technique has improved drastically since its first use more than 30 years ago. The number of X-rays used for one image has in-

creased from four to 64, leading to higher resolution images.

Also, more 2-D planes have become available to make the final 3-D image with the development of slip-ring technology in which the mechanism used to beam X-rays (called the gantry) constantly rotates around the patient to obtain multiple images.

Unfortunately, these advances come with some disadvantages — mainly long scan times. Longer periods of time spent in the CT scanner lead to larger doses of X-ray radiation in patients.

To counteract this, the speed of the gantry has increased so that the images can be taken more quickly. However there are limitations.

"At a gantry rotation speed of 300–350 ms, MDCT scanners are approaching current engineering limits for gravitational forces on the gantry," Karl Schuleri of Hopkins's Division of Cardiology and one of the paper's authors, said. If the gantry is rotated any faster, the forces acting on it will be so massive that it will simply collapse from the effort needed to keep spinning.

The study investigated uses of MDCT outside its current realms. One such use incorporates wide-range or dynamic-volume CT. This method increases how much of the heart and blood vessels can be imaged in one rotation of the gantry.

As a result the patient spends less time in the scanner, which

decreases X-ray radiation by 400–500 percent, while simultaneously increasing how much can actually be imaged. This increase could result in a higher accuracy in diagnosing major cardiac diseases such as coronary artery stenosis. However, it can compromise the quality of the final 3-D image.

Another recently noticed advancement in MDCT is the dual-energy CT. This technique employs different energy levels in the beams of X-rays fired at the patient.

"Imaging the same volume of multi-component tissue at different energies can provide detailed tissue characterization and differentiation by CT," Schuleri said. As a result more detailed images can be produced if multiple X-rays of different energies are used to create them.

The CT scanner currently in use is commonly called the fourth generation CT scanner, as it is the fourth of its kind to be in continuous use while incorporating the many improvements added to its three predecessors.

In their paper, which appeared in the November issue of *Nature*, the researchers expressed their hope for a fifth generation scanner, capable of combining all of these new developments to create a "motion-free, high-resolution, spectral evaluation of coronary arteries and physiologic myocardial assessment in a single heartbeat."

Uninsured children more likely to die during hospital stays

By MALI WIEDERKEHR
Staff Writer

In the midst of this fresh explosion of health care debate, a striking study released by Hopkins researchers may provide another support pillar for advocates of government-funded insurance coverage.

The study examined high mortality rates in uninsured children, and researchers found that 104,520 of the 22.2 million insured children died during hospitalization, compared to 9,468 of the 1.2 million uninsured children.

This indicates that uninsured children are 60 percent more likely to die in hospitals than their insured counterparts.

"If you take two kids from the same demographic background — the same race, the same gender, same neighborhood income level and same number of co-morbidities or other illnesses — the kid without insurance is 60 percent more likely to die in the hospital than the kid in the bed right next to him or her who is insured," David Chang, an author of the study and an assistant professor at the Hopkins School of Medicine, said.

The study encompassed more than 23 million hospital records. The records were collected from 37 states across the U.S. between 1988 and 2005. A very large data pool was necessary for the study given the relatively low rates of death in children.

The researchers recruited children under the age of 18, controlling for gender, race, region of residence, medical condition, hospital type and basis of admission using regression models.

Researchers used statistical simulation in order to find the number of deaths that could be avoided by the possession of health insurance. They were able to predict the number of deaths in the insured group based on the patients' medical condition, subsequently applying this figure to the uninsured group.

Although the study does not explain why child mortality is higher among uninsured children, researchers can speculate as to some possible reasons. Uninsured children were found to have shorter, less expensive hospital visits when they died, averaging \$8,058 compared with \$20,951 in the insured group.

However, there was no differ-

ence between these figures in the insured and uninsured groups with regard to surviving children.

In addition, uninsured children had a higher incidence of emergency room visits, suggesting that they were more likely to seek medical attention when their condition was severe.

Sometimes these children arrived at the emergency room at such advanced stages of disease that they "literally died before the hospital could provide them more care," according to Fizan Abdullah, the lead investigator of the study and a pediatric surgeon at the Hopkins Children's Center.

The overwhelming reaction to this study has been in favor of a government-funded healthcare option.

"Thousands of children die needlessly each year because we lack a health system that provides them health insurance. This should not be," Peter Pronovost, co-investigator of the study and director of Critical Care Medicine Hopkins, said.

Furthermore, the data exclude children who died after being discharged from the hospital and those who did not visit the hospital in the first place. Researchers believe this may indicate that the number of uninsured deaths is even higher. If lack of insurance is the palpable cause of increased death rates in children, it seems imperative that measures be taken to provide all children with insurance.

It is easy to draw this conclusion, especially with a study that concerns children and immediately calls for our sympathy. Yet, it is also important to consider that like any retrospective study, the weakness of this one is that the data is prone to bias and cannot prove cause-and-effect. "Can we say with absolute certainty that 17,000 children would have been saved if they had health insurance? Of course not," David Chang said in a press release.

Nevertheless, the researchers appear to have taken great pains to avoid bias, and their conclusions are reasonable (of course, a prospective study would be impossible and unethical). The powerful correlation between the two factors — uninsured children and death is certainly one to consider given the estimated seven million uninsured children in the U.S. today.

Key differences between stem cells discovered

By ALEENA LAKHANPAL
Staff Writer

People react differently to the idea of stem cells — many are scandalized by the thought of using a human embryo for lab work, while equally many encourage the research in hopes of developing treatments for various diseases.

However, scientists have more recently been examining the properties of induced pluripotent stem cells rather than the embryonic stem cells that have caused so much controversy.

Induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) are stem cells derived from adult cells. Once mature cells are reprogrammed back into stem cells, they have the ability to self-renew and differentiate into any kind of cell, which seems analogous to the abilities of embryonic stem cells (ES cells).

However, in a joint study between Andrew Feinberg from the Hopkins School of Medicine and George Daley from Harvard University, it has been shown that although the genes altered in ES cells during normal cell differentiation are the same genes altered in iPSCs, there are fundamental differences between iPSCs and ES cells.

Feinberg, Daley and their colleagues studied the epigenetic nature of the iPSCs, or the external chemical modifications to the genome. Although they should be genetically identical to the mature cells from which they were derived, the iPSCs differ in what DNA is copied when the cell divides, even though the instructions for this difference are not included in the DNA sequence.

In order to "see" these differences, the team used a method called methylation to distinguish which genes were turned off or on after replication. Methylation will silence genes, but still will be copied when a cell divides. Researchers can then identify which genes were silenced and categorize them as differentially methylated regions (DMRs).

"We examined DNA methylation, an epigenetic modification involving a chemical change to cytosine. We found thousands of sites throughout the genome that are reprogrammed epigenetically during the creation of induced pluripotent stem cells," Feinberg said.

Feinberg and Daley's lab used methylation to compare the genetics of mature fibroblasts and the iPSCs derived from those same fibroblasts.

"We have identified the regions that change in their DNA methylation profile during the generation of iPS cells, and surprisingly, the very same regions could distinguish the brain from the liver from the spleen," Akiko

Doi, a doctoral candidate in Cellular and Molecular Medicine who works with Feinberg, said.

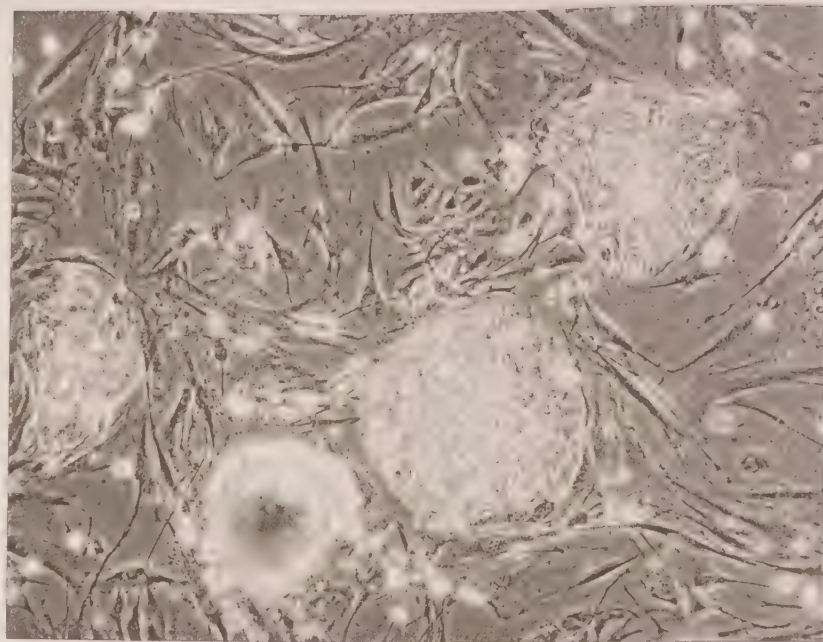
In essence, the methylated regions show that the same genes are involved in epigenetic reprogramming, tissue differentiation and the development of cancer cells. "It suggests that many of the same gene targets are involved in stem cell reprogramming, differentiation and cancer," Feinberg said.

However, although this discovery does link the three phenomena, it could lead to potential problems. "It is both good and bad news clinically, because it tells us something new about cancer, but also tells us to be careful about the genes that might be altered during reprogramming," he said.

Here on the Homewood Campus, the Student Society for Stem Cell Research encourages discussion and promotion of research such as Feinberg's, hoping to educate people about the existence and benefits of induced pluripotent stem cells.

In their most recent Journal Club meetings, which are held two to three times a semester, the topic of interest was tumorigenesis. Jeremy Margarette Vidal, a leader in the group, expressed her excitement about Feinberg's study.

"Scientists have already found a way to reprogram a somatic cell so that it can revert back to its early state, so now it's a matter of analyzing every single factor involved in that because



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The genes that are chemically modified in stem cells during differentiation are the same as those in cancer.

it will allow us to know how abnormalities in cell growth arise," she said. Vidal believes that Feinberg's discovery of the correlation between methylated sites of the iPSCs and of cancer cells is a step closer in formulating effective cancer treatments.

However, part of Feinberg and Daley's results indicated that there are differences between the induced pluripotent and embryonic stem cells that could cause problems when in therapy. It had been commonly believed that iPSCs and ES cells were similar, if not identical, and so the iPSCs could easily replace ES cells under the umbrella of stem cell treatment.

But differences in the behavior of the two types will need further research. "We identified differences between iPSCs and embryonic stem (ES) cells in terms of their DNA methylation profile," Doi said. "These differences are likely to cause complications if iPSC cells are used for stem cell therapies, and further work must be done to create iPSC cells that

resemble ES cells more closely in their epigenetic profile."

Furthermore, the exact source of these differences is still unclear. "Unfortunately we have had to be limited to the cell lines that were approved by President Bush, so we don't know whether the iPSCs themselves are different, or [if] there is something wrong with the so-called presidential ES cells," Feinberg said.

Feinberg's is one example of promising research regarding the epigenetic nature of the two types of stem cells and their relationship to tissue differentiation and carcinogenesis. Although it is widely known among scientists how to reprogram an adult cell into a stem cell, the actual genetics of the two are only just now being studied.

Between the open and educational discussions of our own Student Society for Stem Cell Research and understanding the potential of induced pluripotent stem cells, there is hope that effective treatments for diseases such as cancer can be found.

Prostate cancer linked to cholesterol levels

By BARBARA HA
Staff Writer

High cholesterol is one of the greatest contributors to the leading cause of death in America: heart disease. Cholesterol can come from different sources, ranging from a family history of high cholesterol to different foods, to stress.

Over half a million people die from heart disease every year. The cholesterol they accumulate in their blood stream clogs important blood vessels and leads to the failure of the heart and other vital organs.

Recently, researchers at the Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, collaborating with members of the Southwest Oncology group and other experts in the field, say there is now definitive evidence that lower levels of cholesterol can lead to a decrease in the risk for high-grade prostate cancer, the most aggressive and deadly form.

"In our prior study we looked at plasma cholesterol levels in men in the years before they had prostate cancer. Samples were stored away in the freezer, and we measured the cholesterol. Then we looked later at who had prostate cancer," Elizabeth Platz, co-director of the Cancer Prevention Program at the Hopkins Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center, said.

"We found that men who had low cholesterol had a lower risk of high-grade prostate cancer."

Since these findings were considered preliminary, the researchers decided to investigate this observation in a larger study.

"What we found in our recent studies was that again men who had low cholesterol that's in the normal range had a lower risk of diagnosis of high-grade prostate cancer," Platz, also an associate professor at the School of Public Health, said.

Studies published in 2006 and 2008, in which the use of cholesterol-lowering statin drugs was shown to be inversely associated with advanced stages of prostate cancer, had similar findings. These scientists analyzed data from 5,586 men aged 55 and old-

er who were originally enrolled in the Prostate Cancer Prevention Trial. Nearly a quarter of the men were diagnosed with prostate cancer over a period of three years. However, cholesterol levels only affected the incidence of high-grade prostate cancer, not low- or intermediate-grade cancers.

In addition to the finding concerning cholesterol levels, the data also revealed some leads on other factors that could cause different levels of risk for prostate cancer in different individuals.

"When we think about factors we want to take into account in our analysis, we think of those factors that are related to the exposures of cholesterol and factors that are related to the outcomes of prostate cancer," Platz said.

"Some of those factors are specifically risk factors for the prostate cancer cohort that we want to be able to take into account, and some of the other factors we know are from the real world."

Men with lower serum cholesterol levels were taller and more likely to have a history of diabetes and heart attack, but were less likely to have ever smoked. They were also likely to have consumed less alcohol, have eaten less red meat and have a lower PSA concentration, a marker that correlates to prostate tumors.

Men who were diagnosed with prostate cancer later were more likely to have a family history of prostate cancer, to be shorter, to use aspirin and to have a higher entry PSA, but were less likely to be diabetic or to have ever smoked.

The precise mechanism by which low cholesterol has this beneficial effect on the prognosis of prostate cancer remains

undetermined. However, the original study from which the data was taken found that a certain metabolic pathway was blocked for an enzyme. Similar mechanisms may be at work with cholesterol possibly causing healthy cells to become cancerous.

Although the study employed a large sample size and a high level of control, though, there are still some confounding factors that may have made some men

more prone to prostate cancer than others, such as health habits and medications being taken concurrently.

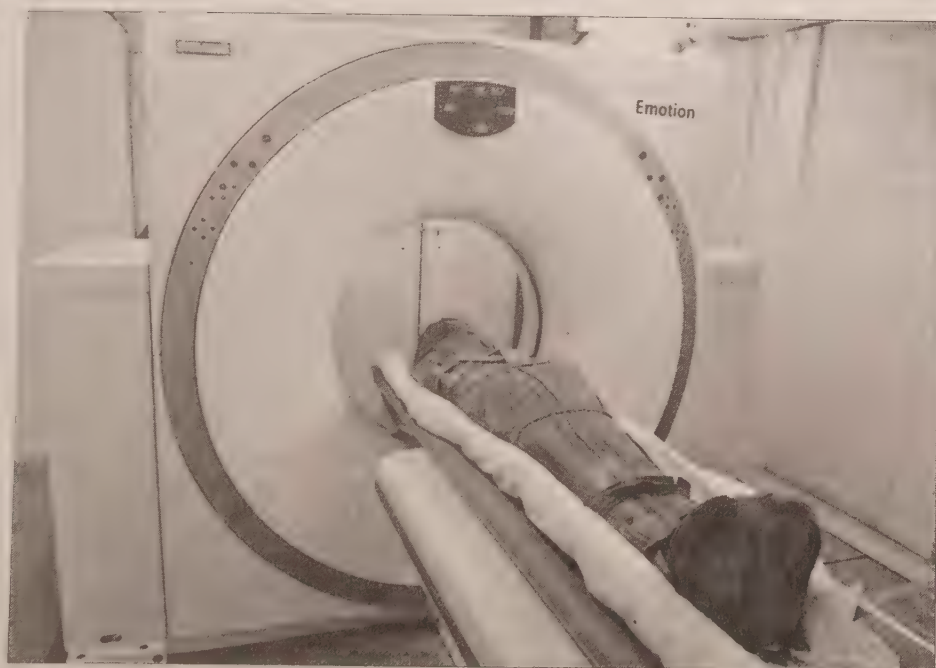
"Virtually all [of the study participants were] white, and that was reflective of the demography of the trial," Platz said. "I can't say for sure whether our results will generalize to other populations, but my guess would be the biology of what we're observing would be similar from population to population."

Additionally, other measures of cholesterol may be a better way to discover mechanisms concerning the relationship between serum total cholesterol and prostate cancer that was observed in this study.

"We are now planning to study the relationships between cholesterol subtypes, such as HDL cholesterol and LDL cholesterol — so called 'good' and 'bad' cholesterol and prostate cancer risk," Platz said.

"Our recommendation is to keep cholesterol in the normal range, and if they just follow that recommendation, it's possible that they may also be preventing developing of high-grade prostate cancer. We can't know for sure, but we found it to be true that the current recommendation is already helping," she said.

Window into science



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After performing CT scans on Egyptian mummies, researchers at the Al Azhar Medical School and the University of California, Irvine, discovered that many had hardened arteries, a sign of heart disease.

Living Weapons tackles biowarfare

By GREG SGAMMATO
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Although they caused widespread terror and temporarily paralyzed the U.S. Postal Service in 2001, biological weapons are poorly understood by most. Political scientist and author Gregory Koblenz attempts to rectify this reality in his book *Living Weapons: Biological Warfare and International Security*.

Koblenz explores the scientific basis of biological weapons

against the Soviet Union and China. Although these indeed caused epidemics, the rudimentary nature of the biotechnology provided no significant advantage.

In the age of industrial microbiology, aerobiology led to the advent of large-scale distribution and implementation of bioweapons. In the way of dissemination, Koblenz discusses two types of munitions: point source, which would involve explosives or gas releasing agents

defend against.

For these reasons, controlling bioweapons is a very difficult task. Verification of the existence of weapons, one of the key principles of international arms control, is uniquely hard when dealing with biological weapons, because biotechnology is mutliuse in nature meaning that it can be applied to both civilian and military programs. Additionally, since civilian programs have an incentive to hide their technology — for national security or to protect proprietary information — it is difficult to determine malevolent activity.

Difficulties in verification, combined with intense secrecy, can lead to intelligence failures. The author examines Operation Iraqi Freedom, which was justified under the assumption that Iraq was pursuing offensive biological weapons capability. As it turns out, this was grossly inaccurate.

Analytical problems are often to blame; for example, Koblenz shows how intelligence officials interpreted ambiguous information about dual-use sites as threatening, simply because they believed it to be true.

As the author unpacks his argument, though, several contradictions emerge. He spends a great deal of time discussing the immediacy of the threat of bioweapons. When he turns to bioterrorism, though, he attempts to prove that the high thresholds for attaining technological expertise will make attacks unlikely.

He essentially shoots his argument in the foot, trying to prove that legitimate action needs to be taken but simultaneously belittling the danger posed by bioweapons.

Overall, this work offers an acceptable history of biological warfare and a sound argument concerning the threat of bioweapons. While the last few sections of the book reduced the salience of the argument as a whole, the scientific and analytical aspects of the majority of the book make for a fascinating read.



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Letters containing anthrax were mailed to the Capitol and several TV news stations.

and examines why they are so difficult to properly manage. His work uses scientific expertise to illuminate why bioweapons are so uniquely threatening to international security.

One of the biggest misconceptions held by the general public involves just what constitutes a biological weapon. Bioweapons are either composed of or derived from living organisms.

Such agents include: pathogens, such as *b. anthracis*, which are disease-causing microorganisms; toxins, such as botulinum toxin (also known as Botox, when administered in small, highly regulated doses); and bioregulators, such as insulin or epinephrine, which are chemicals that control functional aspects of the human body.

The author walks his readers through the history of biological warfare, which has been divided into four distinct time periods, defined by the degree to which microbiology was understood.

The first is governed by pre-germ theory. During this period, attackers were forced to rely on fomites, physical objects used to transmit disease, or vectors, living organisms that spread disease. For example, enemies would often catapult corpses into fortified areas, hoping to spread sickness and infect the besieged troops.

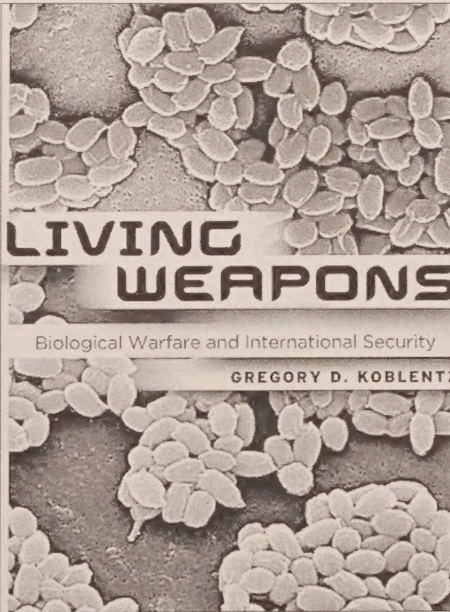
The next period saw the use of applied microbiology. With the advent of germ theory, microorganisms were understood as the causative agent of disease. Within this period, the most significant use of bioweapons came from the Japanese, who employed agents leading to anthrax and cholera

from a stationary location, and line source, which would involve the release of biological agents from a moving source — usually perpendicular to the wind.

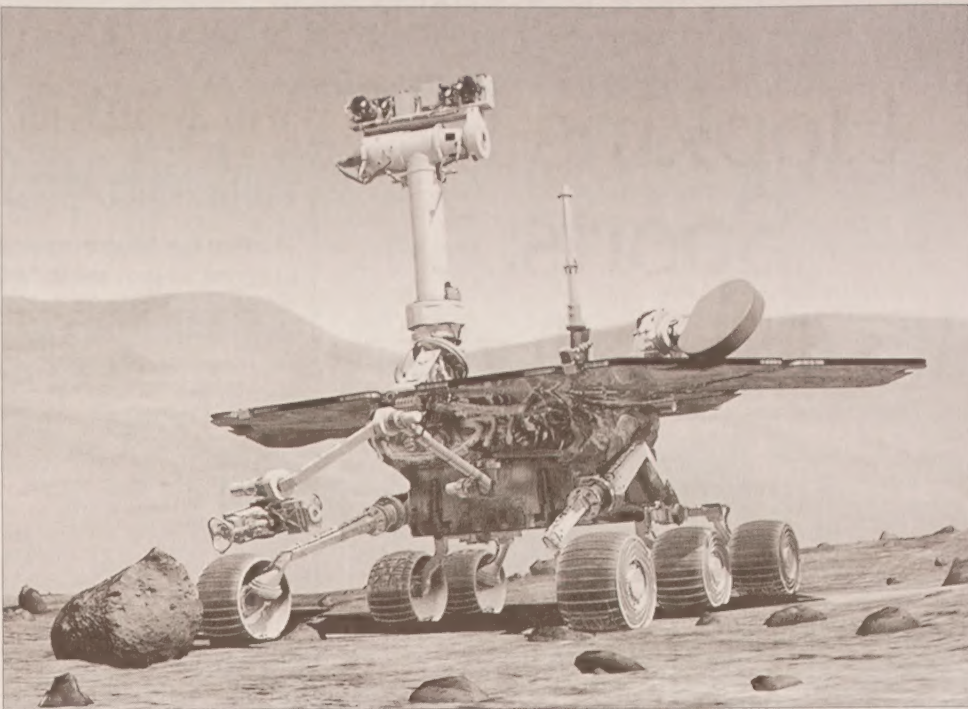
As the U.S. developed nuclear weapons, however, the desire to employ biological agents as weapons of mass destruction decreased significantly.

Finally, biotechnology has affected the use of bioweapons. Genetic engineering has enabled the creation of more virulent pathogens and toxins. Fortunately, there is some hope for using biotechnology defensively. For example, new breakthroughs will allow a greater variety of vaccines to be created and distributed.

Koblenz proceeds to discuss why bioweapons are uniquely challenging to security. He points out that biological weapons favor the attacker in a number of ways. They are extremely potent and, for a low cost, they have a large destructive capability. For example, the cost of the 2001 anthrax scare was approximately \$2,500. The total cost of the state's response, though, was upwards of \$6 billion. Additionally, bioweapons are easy to secretly develop and difficult to



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Gregory Koblenz's new book explores biowarfare's history, from catapulting corpses over fortresses to anthrax in letters.



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The *Spirit* Mars Rover, launched in 2003, has survived on Mars for far longer than its anticipated lifespan of three months.

The little rover that could: Spirit stuck on Mars

By DAN CADEL
Staff Writer

The *Spirit* Mars Rover will soon undertake its most important task to date — saving itself.

Last May, on the 1,899th day of its mission, engineers decided to stop *Spirit's* movement since it had sunk into the soft Martian soil, partially burying its wheels.

Together, *Spirit* and its twin *Opportunity* form NASA's Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission.

The rovers were launched in mid-2003 and landed in different locations on Mars in January 2004, with the intent to last only ninety days. Despite some initial problems, most notably *Spirit's* current quagmire, the rovers continue to function today, almost five years after they landed.

With their lives lasting much longer than anticipated, the project has seen five mission extensions totaling \$126 million, on top of the initial cost of \$820 million. The most recent extension lasts until the end of this year.

Because of the breadth of the mission's scientific objectives, *Spirit* has still been working despite its current immobility. The rover mission objectives called for analyzing rock and soil samples in order to learn about their composition and geographic distribution, determining the processes that formed them, searching for any evidence of historical water, classifying iron-containing minerals and verifying observations made from non-landing missions.

Spirit has been able to perform soil studies and continue taking pictures from its semi-permanent resting spot. It contains a panoramic camera, miniature thermal emission spectrometer, Mössbauer spectrometer, alpha proton X-ray spectrometer and microscopic imager. Spectrometers measure light at different wavelengths.

Meanwhile, *Opportunity* has been on the move. The second rover has been taking a tour of craters, most recently Victoria Crater from 2006 through 2008. After traversing this crater, *Opportunity* is now on a

two-year journey to the Endeavor Crater. In total, it has traveled over 11.75 miles, compared to 4.8 miles for the stuck *Spirit*.

NASA has been performing simulations on Earth to try to free the rover. Attempts have already been made to free the actual rover, but so far none have been successful.

Shortly after the start of the mission, *Spirit's* right front wheel stopped working. Since then, the rover has been driving backward in order to pull the malfunctioning wheel behind it instead of pushing it in front.

Spirit was driving in reverse when it got stuck in its current location. Right now the plan is for the rover to drive forward, retracing its route. Engineers hope this

will give the rover better traction, but still expect to encounter serious problems because of the broken front wheel.

Complicating matters, pictures taken by the rover of itself show that rocks are pushing up on its undercarriage. This is an additional obstacle preventing movement beyond the deep sand.

Plans to extricate *Spirit* are expected to last until February at the earliest. At that point, NASA will re-evaluate the effort and whether it is worth continuing.

Even if the rover is permanently stuck, it will still be able to take pictures and test the soil in its immediate area. In any case, the MER mission has definitely exceeded its originally anticipated lifespan of a mere three months.

Physics explains why certain pitches are so hard to catch

BASEBALL, FROM B7

is the knuckleball. The knuckleball is a pitch with an erratic and unpredictable motion. The most famous active knuckleballer is Tim Lincecum of the Boston Red Sox, who has made an 18 year professional career out of mastering the pitch.

The knuckleball has very little, if any, spin. This creates a vortex over the seams of the baseball, causing the pitch to change direction in mid-flight.

As Red Sox Gold Glove catcher Jason Varitek said, "Catching the knuckleball, it's like trying to catch a fly with a chopstick."

According to a 1975 article in the American Journal of Physics, scientists in the Mechanical Engineering department at Tulane University studied the erratic motion of the knuckleball by measuring forces on the ball in a wind tunnel. Their results showed that, similar to a curveball, the nonsymmetrical location of the seams gives rise to a nonsymmetrical lift force.

A very slowly spinning knuckleball will have a lateral force exerted upon the ball that changes as the positions of the laces change. A two-dimensional analysis of the trajectory of the baseball indicates that the measured force can cause a deflection of the baseball's trajectory of more than a foot. An effective knuckleball should be thrown so that it barely rotates on its way to home plate.

This only explores half of the physics of baseball, as there are many more forces at work when it comes to hitting. However, it is safe to say that the science of baseball has become a serious subject in the academic world. Alan Nathan, a professor at the University of Illinois, for example, teaches an entire class devoted to the topic.

Advances in this field of study mean that the next time you watch A.J. Burnett or Tim Lincecum pitch, you can impress (or annoy) your friends with your new dimension of baseball knowledge.

Briefs in Marine Biology

Penguins leave us eating dust, evolutionarily

New genetic studies on Adélie penguins living in Antarctica have challenged the long-held belief that all earth's species are

evolving at more or less the same pace.

This population of penguins, and most likely other species as well, are evolving two to six times faster than originally thought. Researchers analyzed a region of mitochondrial DNA, appropriately named the hypervariable region, that mutates and changes relatively quickly.

Each mitochondria in a cell has many copies of its own circular piece of DNA. The rate at which the hypervariable region in that DNA changes is used as a ruler to estimate the rate of evolution across species.

The scientists collected DNA both from living penguins and the remains of their ancestors, well-preserved

by Antarctica's frigid conditions, that lived up to 44,000 years ago.

Named after the wife of a 19th century explorer, Adélie penguins are widespread on the Antarctic continent and form large rookeries along the coast in September and October. They are the smallest and among the best-studied of the Antarctic penguins. Adélie penguins and subsist mostly on a diet of krill, and are themselves often a tasty meal for leopard seals.

A different kind of whale hunt for elusive beaked whales

Marine biologists are using new acoustic tracking technology carried by unmanned underwater vehicles to map the movements of the rare beaked whale.

The research is part of a project to help protect these whales, which are especially at risk from

the sonar used during naval training exercises. The sonar is believed to cause beaked whales to surface too quickly. The resulting decompression sickness — also known as the bends — can be fatal.

Beaked whales are a group that includes 21 different species to date. They are among the least-known mammals, preferring to stay in deep ocean waters. Beaked whales are capable of dives over an hour long and nearly 2km deep as they search for food on the sea floor.

Giant jellyfish spell trouble for the Sea of Japan

Warming ocean waters have made jellyfish unwelcome intruders in many new territories, but you don't have jellyfish problems until you have Japan's jellyfish problems.

A giant species called Noruma's jellyfish, which can reach



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Noruma's jellyfish is expanding its territory from the Sea of China to Japan's shores.

diameters of 6 feet and weigh up to 450 pounds, has started showing up along the Japanese coast for the third year since 2005.

Although you might think the animal kingdom's version of Jell-O only has a limited ability to wreak havoc, the jellyfish invasion has already forced coastal power and desalination plants to

shut down. Also, large, drifting colonies of Noruma's jellyfish interfere with commercial fishing, tearing nets and ruining catches. Their appearance in the Southern Hemisphere waters this summer has spelled economic trouble for many coastal communities

— All briefs by Ann Wang



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Adélie penguins are evolving at a faster rate than once thought.

SPORTS

Hopkins Fall Sports: At a (historical) glance

By PAYAL PATNAIK
Editor-in-Chief

November 23, 1963

Men's Football cancelled its game against rival MacDaniel College (then known as Western Maryland College) due to the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

1992

The year that the women's varsity soccer program was started at Hopkins.

6

postseason titles that women's soccer has claimed since its inception.

.900

Winning Percentage for men's soccer in the 2004 season (17-1-2).

53

games of men's soccer that hold the Centennial Conference Unbeaten Streak at Home (Oct. 11, 1995 to Sept. 21, 2007).

TOP 3

Coach's poll for DIII women's cross country has ranked the team nationally in the top three consistently through the season.

9

members of the water polo team have received District Eastern Championship honors for MVP recognition (1995-2008).

Andrew Kase and Colin Wixted

named Centennial Conference Offensive and Defensive Players of the Year for the 2009 season.

Johns Hopkins Crew

A varsity sport at Hopkins until last season, when budget cuts forced the program to be eliminated.

Several Jays win awards for conference play

The Blue Jays fall sports teams had great seasons and individual performances. 38 people were named to All-Conference teams in six sports.

Football

Offensive Player of the Year:
Andrew Kase
Defensive Player of the Year:
Colin Wixted

1st Team All-Centennial:

Tim Miller - Sr., OL
Mike Stoffel - Sr., OL
Glenn Rocca - Sr., DL
Steve Levinson - Sr., DL
Mike Milano - So., DB

2nd Team All-Centennial:

Brian Hopkins - Jr., TE
Anthony Catanzano - Sr. OL
Ed Rodger - So., C
Ryan Piatek - So., LB
Tyler Brown - So., LB
Sam Eagleson - So., DB
Alex Lachman - Jr., PK

Honorable Mention All-Centennial:

Dan Crowley - Jr., WR
Ryan Lino - Jr., OL

W. Soccer

Conference Player of the Year:
Jessica Hnatiuk - Jr., Defense

1st Team All-Centennial

Jessica Hnatiuk - Jr., Defense
Jenn Paulucci - Jr., Defense
Karen Guskowski - Sr. Goalie

2nd Team All-Centennial

Erica Suter - So., Forward

Honorable Mention All-Centennial

Erin Stafford - Jr., Forward

M. Soccer

1st Team All-Centennial

Scott Bukoski - Jr., Forward
Evan Kleinberg - Jr., Forward
Kevin Hueber - Jr., Defense

2nd Team All-Centennial

Max Venker - Sr., Midfield
Corey Adams - So., Defense

Field Hockey

1st Team All-Centennial

Amy Wharton - So., Defense

2nd Team All-Centennial

Brittany Bland - Sr., Midfield
Ariana Branchini - Jr., Midfield

Cross Country

1st Team All-Centennial (Women)

Laura Paulsen - Sr.
Cecilia Furlong - So.
Mira Patel - Sr.
Liz Provost - Jr.

2nd Team All-Centennial

Nadia McMillan - Sr.
Mary O'Grady - Sr.

1st Team All-Centennial (Men)

Steve Tobochnik - Jr.

2nd Team All-Centennial

David Sigmon - Sr.

Volleyball

Honorable Mention All-Centennial
Alex Zenoff - Sr., Middle Blocker



FILE PHOTOS
Hueber (top) and Wharton (bottom) were first team All-Centennial conference.

Japanese Jujitsu growing at JHU

Club works with local sensei to teach students this ancient martial art

By ERIC GOODMAN
Sports Editor

It's 3 a.m. and you crave a late night snack, so you decide to walk down N. Charles St. to 7-Eleven. Suddenly, a strange man comes out of the bushes and grabs you

was vital to his job.

"As a security officer you get into various different situations, people come in drunk, people come in with various psychological problems," Harold said. "He expressed to me the understanding that studying some form of jujitsu or something that has a lot of restraint could be beneficial. I needed an art that had restraining techniques where I won't get hurt, and where I wouldn't hurt the patient."

Harold soon afterwards began taking jujitsu classes at the Towson YMCA, where he has been studying ever since. Teaching the Budoshin 'traditional' form of jujitsu, he worked his way up to the rank of Godan, and teaches at the YMCA as part of the Daitobukan Dojo.

In 2002, one of Harold's students at Daitobukan, who was a Hopkins undergrad-

uate at the time, approached Harold about teaching classes at Homewood. Harold has been able to find various students over the years who have become devoted to the art, such as current senior Eugene Sato, who discovered the club during his sophomore year.

"I started Tae Kwon Do when I was five, and did that for eight years, and later took up judo in high school for about a year and a half. I came across the jujitsu club while looking for something similar to judo that I could practice," Sato said. "I was specifically looking for something like jujitsu to practice so it didn't really take much to draw me in."

He said that the thing that impressed him the most was the liberal nature with which newcomers were ingratiated into the class. There were only six students in the group, one upper-level belt and several white belts. While Sato was the only one without a gi, the traditional martial arts uniform, he was still able to participate.

The same held true for me, as I did not have a gi of my own and showed up in shorts and a tee-shirt. At the class I attended, I met a

student from the Brazilian Jujitsu class, who decided on a whim to participate. Harold started us off with a series of calisthenics, sit-ups, pushups and wrist, hand and neck exercises. Simple enough — except I began to feel dizzy halfway through and had to sit for a bit (this is where the fact that I spend more time writing about sports than actually doing them caught up to me).

The group then proceeded to practice various methods of grappling and throwing. Using the upper belts and his assistant sensei as examples for proper technique, Harold grouped the participants based on height and was able to give individual as well as larger group instruction.

The session started at 6 p.m. and lasted until after 8 p.m., with probably close to 300 throws being completed between all participants during the duration of the class.

Sato, who has studied other forms of martial arts, finds Jujitsu to be one of the most rewarding.

"I definitely enjoy the wide-range of technical concepts that Jujitsu employs," Sato said. "Jujitsu takes a while to get into at first, especially since there is such a large variety of different types of techniques that can be taught, but I would always encourage people to join."

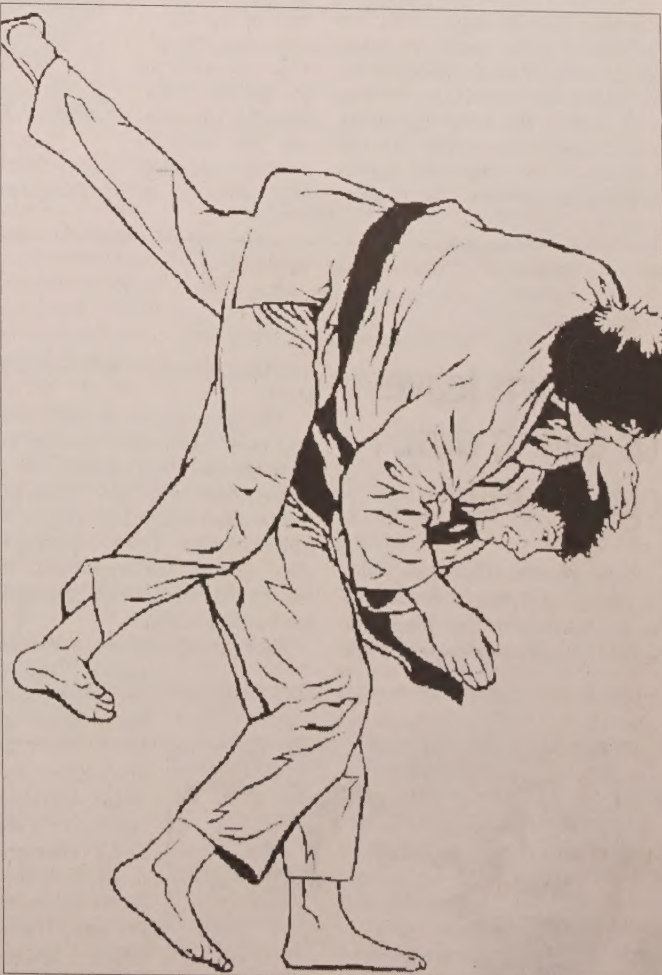
One aspect which Harold strives to include in his instruction is the practical applications of jujitsu. He recognizes that this is a city which often leaves people vulnerable to attack, and tries to give people something to work with if they are unfortunate enough to be unexpectedly assailed.

"Over the course of time I started realizing that people are going to take the same technique, but will absorb it and do what works for them," Harold said.

"I want to keep it practical and traditional, but I want you to be able to take with it what can work for you if you get attacked on the street. If you get in that situation, I want you to be able to take the technique I want you to be able to apply it right then and there when you need it and hopefully you can get away."

Japanese Jujitsu is not only a great self defense art, but it is also a great way to get exercise and stay in shape, something which most Hopkins students often lack the motivation to do. Classes currently meet Fridays from 8-10 p.m. and Sundays from 6-8 p.m. at the Ralph S. O'Connor Recreation Center.

For more information, send an e-mail to jhujujitsu@gmail.com.



COURTESY OF DONVITOMARTIALARTS.COM
A major part of Japanese Jujitsu is to neutralize the enemy through locks and throws.

Write for the sports section! No experience necessary! E-mail us at sports@jhunewsletter.com

SPORTS

Football takes fifth conference title

By CECILIA FURLONG
Staff Writer

Traveling to McDaniel this past weekend, the Blue Jays needed a win to grab the Centennial Conference's automatic bid to the NCAA playoffs. Not only did the Jays take down the Green Terror 38-14 and grab the bid, the win also gives the Jays the outright Centennial Conference championship, their fifth conference championship in the last seven years.

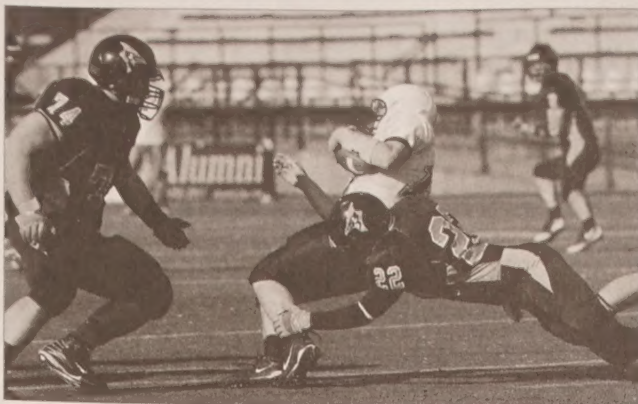
"We were very focused heading into the game, knowing it was essentially a playoff game," senior running back Andrew Kase said. "If we win, we keep playing, lose and we're done."

The Jays' focus showed early, as they jumped out to a 7-0 lead on the opening drive. Sophomore quarterback Hewitt Tomlin engineered a 65-yard drive downfield, culminating in freshman wide receiver Scott Cremen's first career touchdown.

The lead would not hold long, though, as the Green Terror responded in the closing seconds of the first quarter with a touchdown of their own, knotting the score at 7-7.

"The approach to the game was treating it as the biggest game of our season," Tomlin said. "We studied a lot of film, we practiced very hard and put together a very good game plan. It's hard playing a team that has nothing to lose, so we responded with a 'nothing to lose' attitude as well."

The Jays dominated the second quarter offensively, tacking on two more touchdowns before the half. Sophomore linebacker Ryan Platek set up the first offensive drive as he picked off McDaniel's Thomas Massucci. A four-yard rush by Kase and an



FILE PHOTO

The Blue Jays defense has held five straight opponents to fourteen or fewer points.

Alex Lachman extra point gave the Jays back their seven-point advantage.

The Jays would add on another touchdown just before the clock ran out in the first half. Starting at their own two-yard line, the Jays drove the ball nearly the entire length of the field, with Tomlin going 7-for-11 on the drive. Tomlin hit junior Tucker Michels for a 13-yard touchdown pass with 37 seconds left on the clock, giving the Jays a 21-7 advantage going into the locker room.

Following a scoreless third quarter, the Jays came out firing in the fourth, essentially putting the game on ice and securing their berth in the NCAA tournament. Senior full-back Jay Adams ran the ball in from two yards out to give the Jays a comfortable three-touchdown lead early in the fourth quarter. Alex Lachman would follow this with a 21-yard field goal midway through the quarter.

Sophomore Mike Milano's pick and 42-yard return for a touchdown would complete the Jays' offensive production, giving them a 38-14 win over McDaniel.



FILE PHOTO

Senior co-captain Tim Miller has been stellar on the offensive line.

Women's soccer set to host NCAA Division III Sweet 16

W. SOCCER FROM B12
therefore the put-back and her second goal of the game.

Hopkins would tack on one final goal in the 87th minute. Hopkins scored the last goal of the day in the 87th minute on a breakaway when senior Catilin Moore dribbled in before nailing a shot to the right of Porretta.

By the end of the game, the Jays did not have a single starter on the field, giving playing time to backups. Guskowski and Kristen Redsun split time in-goal, combining for three saves. The Jays out-shot Cabrini 21-5.

With the win the Jays moved on to Sunday's second round



WILL SHEPHERDSON/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Junior Jessica Hnatiuk had a goal in the win over Eastern.

game, also at Homewood Field where they faced the Eastern Eagles. Eastern had defeated Virginia Wesleyan 1-0 on Saturday to advance to the second round.

The Eagles proved to be a tougher test than the Cavaliers, but once again the Jays struck first. In the eighth minute, Hnatiuk took a direct kick and blazed a shot into the far corner of the post past the hands of Eastern's goalkeeper Alysia Goodman. Hopkins would outshoot Eastern 5-3 the rest of the half, but neither team would score.

The Jays put another goal on the board in the 67th minute when Suter planted a perfect pass from the right side of the pitch to the left, where junior Erin Stafford received the ball and buried it into the upper left corner of the

goal for her fourth of the season.

Eastern made a push late in the game, getting their scoring started in the 87th minute. The goal broke a Hopkins six-game shutout streak. The last goal the Jays allowed was in a 2-0 loss to Muhlenberg.

The stats were significantly closer for the Jays second round game than their first. Hopkins out-shot Eastern 13-5, and Eastern actually had six saves against the Jays offense.

The Jays are now preparing to face the Middlebury Panthers on Saturday in Baltimore, the first time Hopkins will host NCAA Tournament sectional contests. This is the first time that these two teams have faced off against each other.

Women's soccer has historically done very well in the playoffs, with a 4-0 record at Homewood Field in NCAA Tournament games. If the Jays defeat Middlebury they take on the winner of the Messiah-Otterbein game on Sunday.

Both Coach Weil and his players are very optimistic about this upcoming weekend.

"We've played in a lot of big games over the last couple of years, so that will definitely help," Weil said. "We've had a great year, and we want to keep the season going as long as we can."

Held feels the fact that this team went deep into the playoffs last year gives the Jays an edge.

"I think it's a huge advantage," Held said. "The Sweet 16 seems less daunting. There's such an exciting energy on the team and a belief that we can really win a national championship this year."

"Out of my four years on this team, this has easily been the greatest group of girls I've played with," Held added.

The Jays will face Middlebury at 2:30 p.m. this Saturday at Homewood Field.

ing them a 38-7 lead with fewer than two minutes left in regulation. The Green Terror would add on one more touchdown before the whistle sounded, but the Jays nonetheless cruised to a 38-14 win and the outright Centennial Conference title. The Jays have now won three straight and eight of their last nine games.

"It's great to be Centennial Conference champs, especially outright," Kase said. "Being only the second team to win the conference outright really puts things into perspective."

This win propels the Jays into the NCAA tournament and they will travel to Hampden-Sydney this Saturday to face the Tigers, who boast a 10-0 record. This will be the first meeting between these two teams this year.

"We don't know a lot about Hampden-Sydney yet," Tomlin stated. "But we will approach them like we do every other team. We look for weakness and tendencies and we exploit them. Hopefully we can find a few and take advantage of them without mistakes."

The Jays will try to put together a complete game this Saturday as they look to continue on in the tournament and build on their three-game winning streak.

"We know what we're capable of as a team and we are really just working toward playing up to our potential for a full 60 minutes on Saturday," Kase said. "We came close against Franklin and Marshall, but I still don't think we've played our best game yet. Saturday would be a good time to do just that."

Kickoff is set for noon this Saturday at Hampden-Sydney in Virginia.

Men's soccer defeats Salisbury in shootout

M. SOCCER FROM B12
his second goal of the season. Wining by a score of 2-0, the Jays then went back to the hotel to rest up for the game against host Salisbury on Sunday.

Playing against the Salisbury Sea Gulls for the second time this year, the Jays were looking another win. But this time proved to be significantly more difficult as the game was deadlocked throughout all of regulation and both overtimes. Both teams did not let up for a second and the Jays and Sea Gulls had several opportunities to score but both goalies did not allow it.

"It was a good game," said sophomore co-captain Corey Adams about Sunday's match. "We dominated in the first half but they stepped it up in the second half."

After 120 minutes of play,



FILE PHOTO

The Jays will take on defending national champion Messiah.

the winner was going to be determined by penalty kicks. The crowd was on edge; either they could not look or they could not blink. One team's season was going to come to an abrupt end.

Senior Max Venker started it off by burying his shot for the Jays. But Salisbury's Alex Har-

grove retaliated with a score of his own. Adams then went one way as the goalie went the other to put the Jays up 2-1 in the shootout. And yet again, the Sea Gulls held on by sinking their second shot.

The hearts of the Jays skipped many beats when freshman Nick White's shot was tipped by the outreached hand of the Sea Gull's goalie but the Jays let out a sigh of relief as the ball still managed get in the goal. A rip by Sea Gull Kyle Sterling tied it up for the last time at 3-3.

Hueber then made the fourth shot for the Jays and, soon after, Benjamin Reed for the Sea Gulls

just missed over the crossbar to put the score at 4-3. It was all down to junior midfielder Tony Gass. And he did not falter, sending the Blue Jays into a wild celebration on their opponent's home field.

"We're excited," said Adams, as the team looks forward to playing defending National Champions Messiah College in the

next round of the tournament. "Not many teams get the opportunity to knock off the defending champs in the NCAA tournament and we know that if we play our best we can beat the best; we can beat anyone in the country."

According to Captain Nate Wysk, seniors are trying to stay

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK HEWITT TOMLIN- FOOTBALL

Star QB leads Jays to NCAA playoffs

By BRETT SCHWARTZ
Staff Writer

Sophomore quarterback Hewitt Tomlin led the Hopkins football team to a Conference Championship and NCAA berth this past weekend, and for his accolades he is our News-Letter Athlete of Week.

Hewitt Tomlin is no newcomer when it comes to the sport of football. The sophomore quarterback has been tossing the pigskin since he moved to the U.S. in 1998. "I've always enjoyed it; it's the only sport I've played continuously since then. The best part of football is the nature of the teammates that play it," he said.

After an early-season loss to Delaware Valley, Tomlin led the Jays to an 8-2 record. Hopkins entered last Saturday in a tie for first in the Centennial Conference. The Jay won the championship outright with their 38-14 win over McDaniel and Dickinson's 35-32 loss to Ursinus. The win gave Hopkins its fifth conference title since 2002 and also qualified the Jays for the NCAA playoffs.

"Winning the conference is almost an indescribable feeling, especially since we are the uncontested champions," Tomlin said. "It's been

the greatest moment of this year, if not my life, in regards to sports."

Off the field, Tomlin is involved heavily in both academics and social activities on campus. He chose Hopkins because of the promise of playing as a young player and the academic rigor of

arrived, but the reality is that I'm young and I have a lot to learn," he said. "The fact that a lot of upperclassmen look to me for big things is honoring and I'm thankful for my teammates in believing in me despite my age."

But as one of the younger contributing players on the team, Tomlin also finds himself looking up to the more veteran players on the roster as well.

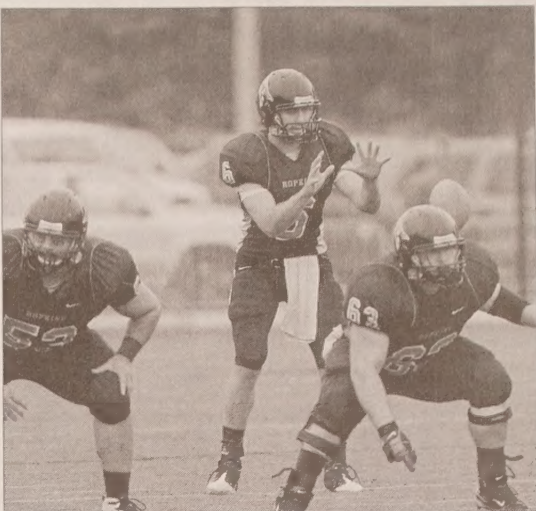
"I look up to a lot of guys on the team, but (senior co-captain) Tim Miller has to be the one I would want to be like the most. He's a superb football player and tears it up in the classroom, a real class act. Brian Hopkins also is a teammate that I admire a lot," Tomlin said.

According to Tomlin, he believes his greatest asset to be his arm strength and his greatest weakness to be his risk taking.

"I would say having a strong arm is something I've always had since being a kid," he said. "My weakness could be my pride when it comes to something that isn't advised. I will sometimes make throws that aren't good just to see if I can make them."

He attributes his growth as his quarterback to both his current head coach, Jim Margraff and quarterbacks coach, Dan Swanstrom. "Coach Margraff gives me the big picture stuff and Coach Swanstrom has transformed me into the quarterback I am today with both physical and mental teaching," Tomlin said.

He hopes to carry his team's three-game winning streak into the NCAA playoffs this Saturday. The undefeated Hampden-Sydney Tigers will host the Jays at noon. Tomlin believes his team will be able to win the game. "We consider ourselves playoff contenders and we would like to see ourselves go to the second round at least" Tomlin said.



FILE PHOTO

Sophomore Hewitt Tomlin has shown incredible arm strength at QB.

the school. A public health major, Tomlin is a member of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity and enjoys the social events on campus.

"I think that Hopkins offers a lot socially and I haven't been really disappointed with any social aspects on campus," he said.

"I think anyone here can have a good time if they decide to have a good time first. It's a very tough balance but the surprising thing is that football helps keep you on schedule and gives some organization to your time schedule," Tomlin said.

Football has always been the focus of Tomlin's recreational life. He has also tried club lacrosse at Hopkins, as the sport is not played in his home state of Tennessee.

He is in a unique role on the team because he is the starting quarterback as only a sophomore, and started for most of his freshman season. "It's a trap in a way. You want to tell yourself that you've

Winter Sports are on the way!

By ERIC GOODMAN
Sports Editor

With the fall season winding down, winter sports are on the horizon. Here's what to watch out for.

Men's Basketball: Home games are at Goldfarb Gymnasium during November, December, January, February and March. While attendance will never be the same as at a Division I school, there are usually a couple of fans each game who create a fun Cameron Crazy-like atmosphere. This year's team has three seniors, including 6-8 Andrew Farber-Miller.

Women's Basketball: Just like the men's team, the women's team play games during the winter months and also at Goldfarb Gymnasium. Led by three senior captains this year — Monica Mitchell, Leslie Markun and Katie Biggart, this year's team hopes to go far in the Centennial Conference.

Men's and Women's Swimming: With several Division I opponents on its schedule, this team has a serious mindset from the get-go. Led by the reigning national champion in the 100 and 200 backstroke, John Thomas, and longtime head coach George Kennedy, the men's and women's teams are a staple at nationals.

Men's and Women's Fencing: Like swimming, fencing faces Division I opponents all season. This season, several fencers will be traveling to San Jose to compete in a large national tournament. Leading the way for the men is Max "The Cow" Wieder, and for the women, Laura Chinn.

Wrestling: Wrestling will be led by Hector Cintron (184) and Rocky Barilla (141).

For NCAA Tournament score updates and other sports news, check us out on twitter at twitter.com/jhunewsletter.

SPORTS

Did You Know?

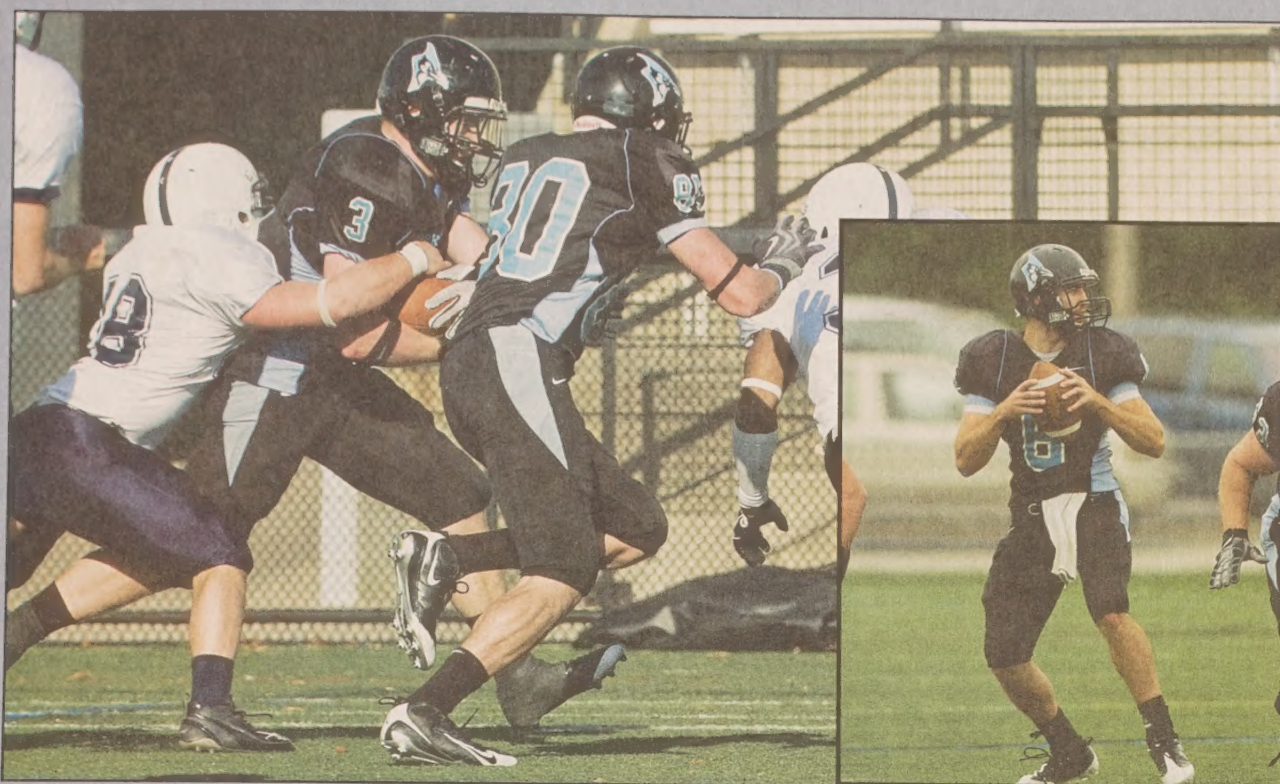
On Monday/Tuesday, ESPN successfully aired more than 24 straight hours of college basketball on their flagship station. They were able to do this by having Hawaii and Northern Colorado play at 11 p.m. Hawaii time (4 a.m. EST), and by having Monmouth and St. Peter's play a morning game in New Jersey at 6 a.m. eastern time!

HOME CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
M. Basketball vs. Steveson, 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
W. Basketball vs. Wheaton (Ma.), 1 p.m.
W. Soccer vs. Middlebury, 2:30 p.m.

Football defeats McDaniel 38-14, clinches NCAA berth



Senior co-captain running back Andrew Kase (#3) has set nearly every school rushing and scoring record in Johns Hopkins football history. On Saturday, Kase rushed for 93 yards on 26 carries and scored a touchdown, his 19th of the season and tying the Centennial Conference single season record. Sophomore Quarterback Hewitt Tomlin (#6) passed for over 300 yards and is this week's *News-Letter* Athlete of the Week.

DANIEL LITWIN/PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

W. Cross Country wins NCAA Mid-East Regional

By MARY DOMAN
Staff Writer

The women of Hopkins cross country not only led their team this weekend, but also the whole Mid-East region. They placed first in the NCAA Mid-East Regional meet. Led by senior Mira Patel, the women's performance at regionals looks promising for this weekend's NCAA championships.

"The women did an outstanding job," senior Mike Yuan said. "And Mira, as usual, was awesome."

"It was a fun race," as Patel simply put it.

Hours before the race, it was decided that senior Laura Paulsen, who has led the Lady Jays for most of the season, would not be running. Paulsen was still recovering from an illness that kept her off the roads the week before. The team then looked to junior Megan Brower to step up and fill the final seventh spot. And Brower, who had run with the top pack for most of the season, did not let her teammates down.

The girls had a great start of the race, leading the pack as they ascended the first hill into the cornfields of Lehigh's course. At the mile, sophomore Cecilia Furlong led the race, with Patel and a strong back of the regions top runners at her heels. Coming up to the final mile, Patel was leading the Jays and was still in contact with the front pack. Furlong stayed strong and was followed closely by freshman Liz Provost and juniors Nadia McMillan and Mary O'Grady.

At the finish, Patel took tenth place with a time of 22:09.02, followed by Furlong in 12th (22:23.8). Provost took 23rd (22:46.4), McMillan 30th (23:07.3) and O'Grady 34th (23:08.8). The girls scored 109 points, four points ahead of second place finisher Dickinson College.

"It was good to see us take first, even without Laura running," Patel said.

This is the second time in Hopkins history that the women have won regionals — the first being last season. Over the past eight years the women have become increasingly stronger. In 2001, the team took a mediocre

12th place at the regional meet. By 2006 they had moved up to fifth, though only Laura Paulsen (a freshman at the time) qualified individually for nationals.

Part of the ladies' power comes from a strong senior class. Paulsen and Patel are among the first to cross the finish line at almost every meet. Seniors Mary O'Grady and Nadia McMillan aren't ever too far behind, and all four were named on the All-Regional Team. Also on this team were freshman Liz Provost and sophomore Cecilia Furlong, showing some depth the team will need next year.

Though the men's team didn't secure a spot at nationals, junior Steve Tobochnik managed to land an individual spot. Tobochnik was Hopkins' fastest man of the weekend, taking 20th place among 314 runners.

"I'm excited," said Tobochnik, "and definitely looking forward to a competitive race this weekend."

Senior David Sigmon wasn't far behind Tobochnik, placing 30th. Both men scored a spot on the All-Regional Team.

Though the men haven't made quite as big a leap as the women, improvement is still written all over the record books. In 2001 they took a lowly 17th at regionals, moving up to 13th in 2005, 8th in 2006, fifth in 2008 and taking a slight dip to seventh this year.

"Taking a step back and reflecting on the entire season, however, I think we can all take pride in what we were able to accomplish," Yuan said about the men's season.

"We will definitely expect to qualify as a team next year," Tobochnik said.

The plane ride to Ohio for the meet this weekend should be interesting for Tobochnik, as he'll be the only man travelling among a group of Hopkins women. Luckily, all the runners (men and women) who aren't racing in nationals will be driving up to Ohio and will at the finish line for support.

"I look forward to cheering the girls on at nationals next weekend," said Yuan.

The NCAA Division III National Championships will take place this Saturday Berea, Ohio. Race time is set for 11 a.m.

W. soccer wins a pair, moves on to NCAA Sweet Sixteen

By ERIC GOODMAN
Sports Editor

On the heels of two NCAA tournament wins this past weekend at Homewood Field, the seventh-ranked Hopkins women's soccer team advanced to the sweet sixteen for the second time in as many years.

In the single elimination tournament, on Saturday the Jays blanked the Cabrini Cavaliers 4-0. With the win the Jays played again on Sunday, where they defeated the Eastern University Eagles 2-1.

With the wins, the Jays move onto the third round of the NCAA tournament at Homewood Field against NESAC conference power Middlebury.

"(Our players) are very focused, confident and should be because they've been playing very well," Head Coach Leo Weil said. "They're very excited to be playing at home again and I'm sure they intend to take full advantage of that."

The game started off with an offensive push from both teams. In just the seventh minute, junior defenseman Jessica Hnatiuk headed the ball into the box towards a streaking Sarah Roeder, who was tripped by a Cabrini defender before she could reach the ball. Roeder took the free kick and just missed putting Hopkins on the board with a shot that hit off the crossbar. Hopkins scored another one minute later when junior Ali Zazzali took a great pass in the box, but the shot was deflected by a Cavalier defender.

Hopkins started off the scoring in the 28th minute when senior captain Natalie Held found herself wide open in the left corner of the box when a loose ball landed right in front of her. Held planted and drilled a shot from 20 yards out into the right corner of the goal past Cabrini's Gianna Porretta for her second goal of the season.

"It was great getting on the board first," Held said. "Taking the lead really set the tone of the game, and we pretty much con-

trolled the tempo of the game from that point forward."

Despite two corner kicks at the end of the first half, the Jays failed to put any more points on the scoreboard before halftime. But Hopkins piled on the goals in the second half and showed how dominant the five-time defending Centennial Conference champions can be.

"A lot of people call us a second half team," Zazzali said. "But it's only because we always have good things to say and we learn from things that happened in the first half and either correct what we're doing wrong."

Four minutes into the half, sophomore Erica Suter crossed the ball from the baseline to junior Sara Tankard, who headed it to Zazzali right in front of the



Junior Allie Zazzali had two straight goals in Saturday's first round win over Cabrini.

net. Zazzali tapped the ball in to put the Jays up 2-0.

Zazzali would tack on another goal in the 68th minute. Tankard

dribbled around a Cavalier defender and had a shot blocked in front of the net. But Zazzali was

SEE W. SOCCER, PAGE B11

Men's soccer outlasts Salisbury in sectionals

By MARCEL DUARTE
Staff Writer

mercy on Saturday as they completely dominated the Miseri-

nearly-impossible time trying to disrupt what appeared to be a relentless Jay offense.

In the 18th minute, junior Evan Kleinberg ripped a shot that had the goalie beat but was somehow stopped by a Cougar defender. Misericordia could breathe again for a little while as the score remained even at zero in the first half.

Disgruntled with a scoreless 45 minutes, senior Scott Bukoski decided to take matters into his own hands early on in the second half. In the 47th minute, Bukoski fired a blast that had Hopkins fans convinced that a goal was sure to result, only to sit back down as the clang of the crossbar proved

otherwise.

However, just five minutes later, junior Kevin Hueber drew a foul about 20 yards out and Bukoski was there to get back what was taken from him just moments earlier. Bukoski sent a screaming shot around the wall and just inside the left post, putting the Jays up 1-0.

The Jays did not stop there as freshman Brandon Sumpio buried a shot in the 80th minute to secure the victory for his team.

He beat the keeper and the last defender to sneak the ball in for

SEE M. SOCCER, PAGE B11



FILE PHOTO

The men's soccer team upset Salisbury to move onto Regionals.

cordia Cougars. In the opening minutes, it was clear that the Cougars were going to have a

It's now or never for the Hopkins men's soccer team. Either win and keep the season alive, or lose and go home empty-handed.

The Jays have realized this and with an exciting and nerve-racking weekend, they hung on and won to earn a spot in the NCAA Division III Sweet 16.

The Jays first faced Misericordia on Saturday and then moved on to defeat Salisbury on Sunday.

Fresh off a Centennial Conference Championship win, the Jays prepared all week to come out on top in the first and second rounds of the NCAA Tournament. The Jays left for Salisbury, the host location, around mid-day on Friday and did not plan on coming home until Sunday night.

Knowing that the worst thing they could do is to take any remaining games lightly, the Jays showed no

INSIDE

Japanese Jujitsu Featured Club Sport

While it may not be as well known as its Brazilian counterpart, Japanese Jujitsu has been at Hopkins since 2002. Sports Editor Eric Goodman explores this gripping martial art. **Page B10**

All-Centennial Performances:

From football to field hockey to soccer to volleyball, Hopkins teams performed very well this season. Several teams had members named to the All-Conference teams for their efforts. **Page B10**

Athlete of the Week: Hewitt Tomlin

This sophomore quarterback has led a veteran-laden team to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 2005. Tomlin threw for 301 yards on Saturday, his seventh game with 200+ yards. **Page B11**

BLUE JAY ATHLETICS SCOREBOARD

M. SOCCER

Saturday, November 14:

Hopkins 2, Misericordia 0

Saturday, November 15:

Hopkins 0, Salisbury 0

(won on penalty kicks 5-3 after 2 OT)

W. SOCCER

Saturday, November 14:

Hopkins 4, Cabrini 0

Sunday, November 15:

Hopkins 2, Eastern 1

FOOTBALL

Saturday, November 14:

Hopkins 38, McDaniel 14

CROSS COUNTRY

Women

Placed first in Mid-East Region

Men

Placed seventh in Mid-East Region